

NEWS FOCUS

Mencap at 50: still in the running?

11

PROFILE

The rum tale of a soldier turned sailor

17

ARTS

Reeling in reviews from Edinburgh

20

CITY FOCUS

Birmingham under the spotlight

22

CLASSIFIED

Jobs, friends, bargains, breaks

32

Charities challenge MPs on equality

National disability groups across the board are urging a future government to pledge equal rights for disabled people.

Disability Daily – a coalition of 16 charities – backed by rights organisations, has produced a manifesto, which it says is a “blueprint for the society that disabled people need and deserve”.

“Disabled people have one clear demand from the next Government – Equality”.

The groups, including Arthritis Care, Disability Alliance, MIND, Mencap, RADAR, RNIB, RNID and Scope, argue that the Disability Discrimination Act does not give comprehensive civil rights to disabled people and that they are still considered second class citizens

with second class rights and opportunities.

In the run up to the party conferences this month, the manifesto calls for MPs to properly represent their disabled constituents.

Its demands include:

- All disabled people should have the choice to purchase their own care
- The benefits system should be replaced by a comprehensive disability income scheme
- More money should be spent on making secondary schools accessible
- Action should be taken to end discrimination in employment

• A percentage of all new housing stock should be built to recognised accessible standards

• A timetable should be produced for bringing in accessible public transport

• The Disabled Persons and Carers (Short Term Breaks) Bill should be passed.

Discrimination, says the manifesto, starts at general elections, where only 12 per cent of polling stations are fully accessible. It demands that all polling stations are made accessible.

The manifesto calls for a benefits scheme with a benefit to cover extra costs paid according to the severity of disability, a pension to compensate people unable to work and a partial capacity benefit for people with reduced working capacity.

Lord Ashley of Stoke said: “These proposals merit public support and when we can make them practical realities, the lives of millions can be enriched and transformed.”

Disability Daily spokesperson Sue Pratt said: “This is an all-party issue. We want equal citizenship and hope the manifesto will get disability issues on top of the agenda.”

“It should be hard for politicians to ignore.”

The British Council Of Disabled People (BCODP) was one of the few major national groups not to take part.

Chairman Bob Findlay said: “We were involved but were not happy with the decisions being taken and withdrew support.”

“They say one thing and then do another. They have double standards. You can’t operate a shopping list – it needs a more comprehensive approach.”

The BCODP will be drawing up its own manifesto before the next election.



A knight to remember: Matthew Bell, 10, a wheelchair user from Ecclestone in Lancashire, finds out what life was like during the 13th century with members of the Marcher Knights Association. He was at the Rivington Experience – a sports spectacular and display of fight sequences – at Horwich, earlier this summer. NORTH WEST WATER

Disability law in the balance

Fears are mounting that a major piece of disability law will be under threat if a local authority loses an appeal at the House of Lords.

Gloucestershire County Council wants to overturn a Court of Appeal decision which enforces its duty to provide care, regardless of resources, once a person’s needs have been established.

The court ruled in June that the council acted unlawfully when it withdrew care from 1,500 disabled people who had been assessed under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. The case was brought by disabled pensioner Michael Barry and supported by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) and the Public Law Project.

If the decision is upheld by the Lords this autumn or early next

year, councils around the country say they will be held in a financial straight-jacket.

Local authorities believe the Government might have to change the 1970 Act to allow them to prioritise cases, unless it provides more money.

Tad Kubisa, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said:

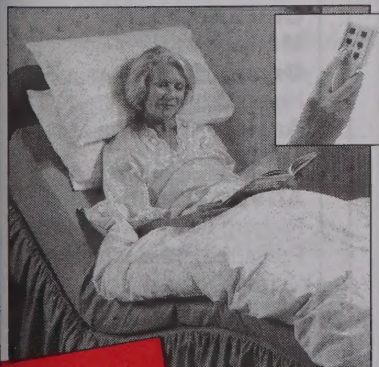
“The resource implications would be horrendous. It would be an impossible situation for members to have to meet all assessed needs without being able to prioritise.”

“The Government would have to change the law to reduce eligibility or they could find more funds or do a bit of both.”

But Neil Betteridge, head of projects and campaigns at RADAR, argued that a defeat for Gloucestershire would not open the funding floodgates.

THERA•POSTURE

Stay Independent in Comfort



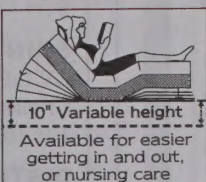
Automatic Adjustable Bed

Theraposture offer a carefully thought-out range of products to help those with mobility problems enjoy the independence and comfort of their own homes.

Select Comfort
from over 1000 positions at the touch of a button.

Suppliers to DHS, and Health Authorities

The Automatic Seat Lift Chair & AutoLift Slumber Recliner



Stands you up, sits you down, nice and gently, at the touch of a button.



Relieves:
• Back and chest problems
• Hiatus hernia
• Arthritic pain.

FOR A FREE BROCHURE OR DEMONSTRATION, PLEASE PHONE
(0985) 847788



Theraposture Limited,
FREEPOST,
Warminster,
Wilts., BA12 8TZ

Fill in this coupon or phone for a **FREE** Brochure – no stamp needed
Please tick for brochure ☐ Beds ☐ Chairs

Name _____ DIN/39
Address _____
Tel _____ Post Code _____

Taxi users slam design

Disabled taxi users claim that a city council has licensed inaccessible cabs.

All new taxis in Newcastle have to be wheelchair accessible in order to get a licence.

But a number of wheelchair users are angry that the newly-licensed Volkswagen Sharan is not fully safe or fully accessible for larger wheelchairs.

Dave Colley, of Disability Action North East (DANE), said: "We are adamant that there are fundamental design problems with the new taxi. This means large numbers of

disabled people are unable to use them. The council should stop issuing licences for them until the problems are addressed."

But Phil Hind, managing director of Automotive, the Newcastle-based firm which adapts and sells the vehicle, said: "It is absolute nonsense. We consulted every man and his dog on this adaptation. It meets European Community approval."

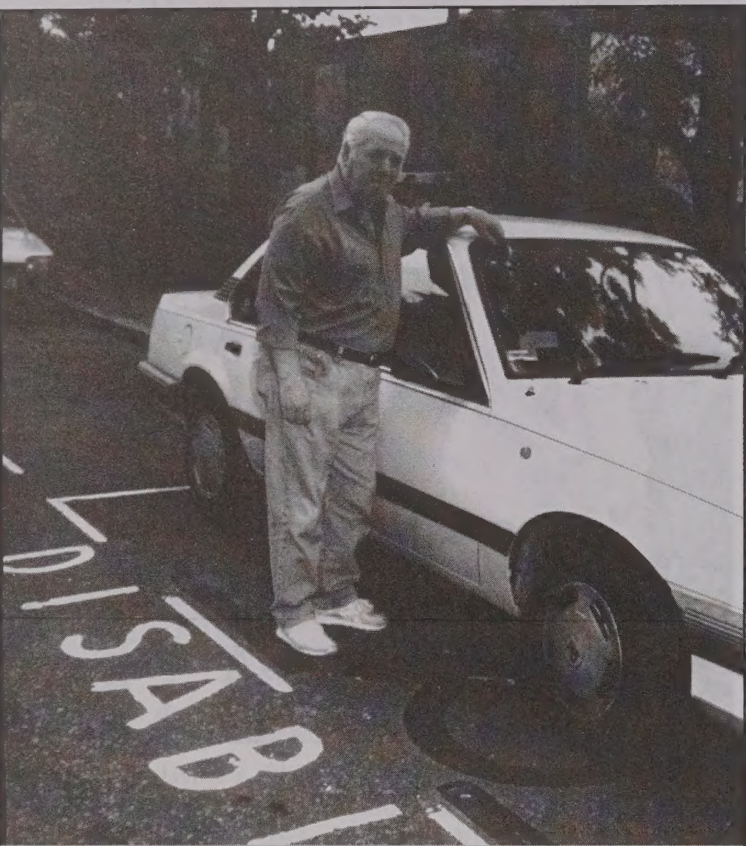
A council spokesperson confirmed its decision and claimed those groups complaining about the adaptation had

refused an opportunity to check out the access of the vehicle.

In a meeting with disability groups in September it refused to stop licensing the vehicle, but it was due to reconsider the issue as DN went to press.

Car campaign

The Disabled Drivers' Motor Club has launched a campaign to heighten awareness of disabled people's parking needs and is urging police forces around the country to enforce rules on orange badge concessions.



A disabled man was stung with a £60 parking ticket in East London, even though he had two orange badges in his car.

Albert Harvey (left) was parked outside his home in a disabled bay when the Tower Hamlets Council traffic warden struck. He issued the ticket because one of the orange stickers was upside-down – even though Albert also has a resident's parking permit.

Albert, 55, had a heart by-pass in 1983. He has difficulty breathing and cannot walk far without getting severe chest pains.

"I am not going to pay £60. It's absolutely ridiculous," he said.

A spokeswoman for Tower Hamlets Council said: "We request that Mr Harvey appeals straight away so that we can look into it."



Top dog: Golden labrador Elton has a rest after becoming *Career Dog of the Year*. He won the Dogs at Work Award, run by animal charity Blue Cross, for enabling his owner Debbie Robbins, of Leamington Spa, to work as a public relations officer. Elton was trained by Dogs for the Disabled. Debbie said: "I would never have gained the confidence to do my job without him."

DOGS FOR THE DISABLED

Care plan slammed

A compulsory insurance scheme to meet the costs of long term care for elderly people has been dismissed by the Government as a "new and unfair tax".

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has proposed that 1.5 per cent of earnings would be paid into a National Care Insurance Scheme, drawing £3 billion a year.

Under the plan, elderly people would not be charged for care, and only accommodation in residential and nursing homes would be subject to means tested charging.

The Foundation is calling for immediate action to prepare for the surge in the elderly population – it predicts there will be 7.9 million people over 75 in 2051.

Disability NOW

Published by

Scope, 12 Park Crescent

London W1N 4EQ

Editorial: 0171-636 5020

Fax: 0171-436 4582

Minicom: 0171-436 9914

Editor Mary Wilkinson

Assistant Editor

Helen Gregory

Reporters Rod Hermeston

Jane Dunford

Features/Production

Assistant Alison Miller

Editorial Assistant/

Secretary Hayley Kerr

Design Consultant

Nigel Tuckett

CIRCULATION

Manager Karen Bresloff

Deputy Manager

Helen Crow

Assistant Davina Long

Tel: 0171-383 4575

ADVERTISING

Richard Gresham, Kingslea

Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices,

Surrey Quays Road, London

SE16 2XU Tel: 0171-252

1362 Fax: 0171-237 8019

TYPESETTING

Banbury Graphics, Suite 10,

Borough House, Marlborough

Road, Banbury, Oxon OX16

8TH Tel: (01295) 272722

PRINTING

CV Litho, Banbury, Oxon and

Challenge Print Management

Tel: (01604) 787633

DISTRIBUTION

MMC, Octagon House, White

Hart Meadows, Ripley,

Woking, Surrey GU23 6HR

ISSN 0958-4676

The views expressed in *Disability*

Now are not necessarily

those of Scope.

Copyright © 1996 Scope

ABC
BUSINESS PRESS

ARE YOU DISABLED OR RETIRED?

SLEEPBETTA
ADJUSTABLE BEDS

UP TO
40%

DISCOUNTS FOR
DISABLED
PEOPLE



NO
VAT

FOR DISABLED
PEOPLE

* AUTOMATIC REMOTE CONTROL *

Do you experience: Please tick ✓

* High or low back pain? ☐ * arthritis or rheumatism? ☐

* circulation problems? ☐ * asthma, bronchitis or emphysema? ☐

* sleepless, restless nights? ☐ * water retention or odema? ☐

Then a **SLEEPBETTA** adjustable bed will help you!

Full range of singles, doubles and dual-operated beds available.

Please send the coupon **FREEPOST** or phone: **0161-273 1133** NOW!

Please supply more information on **SLEEPBETTA** ADJUSTABLE BEDS

NAME _____ TEL _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

Post to: The Adjustable Bed Consultants **FREEPOST** – NWW1005,
Manchester M12 9AB

DN10/96

Our premier powered wheelchair!

NEWTON



ROYALE
NEWTON

The 'Royale' is a new addition to the Newton range of powered wheelchairs. The compact and easily foldable design of the wheelchair is equally at home indoors and with 200mm castors, rear wheel traction and kerbclimber, outdoors. The Royale's high manoeuvrability, smooth comfortable ride and high specification sets a new standard in its class. Additional seating options are available to upgrade this wheelchair to even higher standards.

Return the coupon below to Newton Products

Garretts Green Lane Birmingham B33 0SQ for further details:

Name _____

DN10/96

Address _____

OR CALL THE SALES HOTLINE: 0121-785 0355/6

Stop press

Airwaves award

Scope has launched the first award to encourage commercial radio stations to become more involved in disability issues.

It will be given to the station which proves it has the greatest understanding of disabled people and the issues involved, at the end of next year.

Phone bills to fall

Phone bills are set to fall by an average £5.60 a year.

BT will cut the cost of week-day national calls this month by 20 per cent in the evenings and at night and by 10 per cent during the day. International calls will be cut by between 10 and 25 per cent. Local calls are not affected.

Fall halts trek

An integrated expedition to cross Greenland has had to turn back because a team member hurt an ankle (*DN August*).

Carl Wilkinson, a visually impaired member of the four-man team, fell down a snow hole in July, forcing the expedition to be abandoned after only a few days.

AA's helping hand

Disabled members of the AA who break down can finish their journey in accessible vehicles.

The AA has started a joint scheme with Tripscope, the disability travel information charity, which will provide a database of local agents with accessible transport.

Card is the limit

British Gas has been criticised for discriminating against people over 70.

Its new Goldfish credit card offers £20 off gas bills to holders spending £2,000 a year, but its rules bar older people.

However the firm says they may be considered individually.

DLA cuts explained

People receiving the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance will have it cut after a four-week hospital stay even if they are using it to pay off a car loan, because the Government says they do not incur extra mobility costs in hospital.

However Under Secretary of State for Social Security, Andrew Mitchell, has reiterated that Motability contracts will still be honoured.

Douglas Campbell, of the Disabled Drivers' Association, said: "It seems that if you don't use the Motability scheme the Government thinks you can afford to lose the benefit."

Cash crisis for projects

A Welsh training scheme for people with learning disabilities was cancelled because of delays in funding from Europe.

The scheme is among a large number of employment programmes aimed at underprivileged people.

Money should come from the European Commission's (EC) European Social Fund in jointly funded schemes with local organisations such as councils and charities.

But not only can funding arrive nine months after projects begin, (forcing them to get into debt and pay interest on loans), but they are also having to risk starting up before they get official approval from the British Government.

The Welsh project was among

four to be set up by Mencap in Wales, which is still waiting for the others to be approved. It has had to delay a catering course for 20 people with learning disabilities who will now have to complete it in half the time. "We had to cancel one project because of late approval," said direct services manager, Chris Heavyside.

Kevin Baillie of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which coordinates funding, said: "Most of the projects we are working with experience this problem."

In England 38 projects aimed at disabled people have had to wait for £3m this year. Payment was overdue for 27 projects in Scotland and 16 in Wales.

NCVO and the teaching charity

Inter-Action have sent out forms asking such projects to claim back their interest. A group of British lawyers in Brussels is offering to take the matter up with the European Commission Ombudsman.

An EC spokesperson said the UK Government also played its part in causing delays. "We will investigate delays and try to address if the Commission is responsible."

A Department for Education and Employment spokesperson admitted that the final batch of approvals had only just been sent out.

Don't forget to send in your reader survey from last month's issue by 10 October.

Train protest brings chaos

Disabled protesters severely disrupted train services for an hour and a half while they handcuffed themselves to underground trains in London.

Ten members of Direct Action Network (DAN) stopped Piccadilly and Metropolitan line trains at Hillingdon station in September, during a protest over access.

They, and 100 members of the Hillingdon Station Access Campaign, blocked the station until London Transport agreed to a meeting.

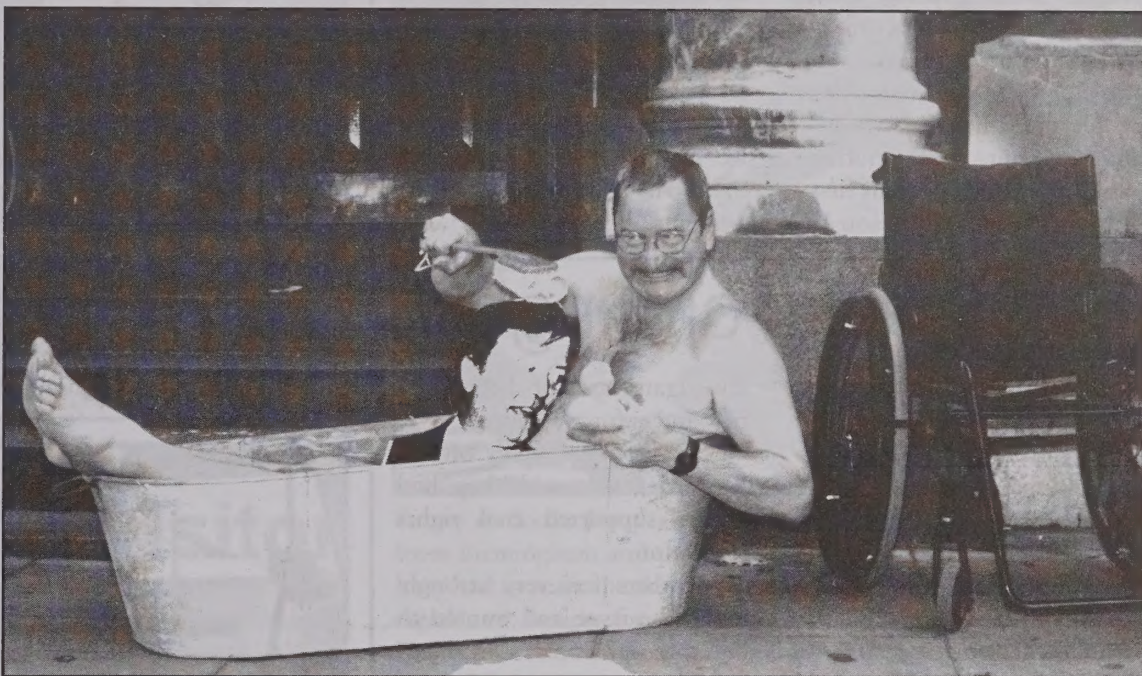
The access group says a padlocked gate means wheelchair users cannot get up the station's ramp and there are no portable ramps for travellers.

Bathtime blues: Kenneth Clarke look-a-like Barry Paterson takes a bath outside the Treasury to illustrate how angry elderly and disabled people are at having to pay twice for routine needs such as washing.

The Coalition on Charging called on Kenneth Clarke to stop assuming that local authorities have to raise income through extra charges.

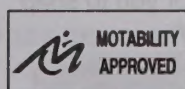
It says disabled and older people rely on state benefits, yet pay twice for services – through the Council Tax and through service charges. Although authorities can charge at their discretion, the coalition believes they are effectively forced into it.

MICHAEL STAVRI



Cruiser

Making wheelchair accessible transport affordable



Send for the latest colour brochure

Contact Peter Scullion or John Adair

The Lewis Reed Group

474 Woodchurch Rd., Prenton, Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside L43 0SE Fax: 0151 608 9393

0151 608 9933

HOW TO CHOOSE A POWERCHAIR OR SCOOTER

New, free booklet explains and guides, ensuring that you make the right decision

Considering buying a mobility vehicle in the next few months? Then you should know about a new, free advisory booklet which will undoubtedly help you to make the right decision.

The easy to read booklet contains all the answers you need to make sense of what can be a complicated affair. It tells you about all the different models available, how they work, what happens when they go wrong and the best way to go about buying a scooter or powerchair.

"The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" also arms you with a series

of questions that you will want to ask before you make your mind up, giving you all the information before you make the important choice.

Get all the facts. Produced by the Mobility Matters Network of mobility specialists "The In's and Out's of buying a mobility vehicle" is available now, free of charge. All you have to do is simply call our 24 Hour Booklet Request Line on 0990 134 130 or write to Mobility Matters, Dept DN10, Freepost NH0170, Kettering, NN14 6YA. A booklet will be sent to you within 14 days from one of the Mobility Matters local Distributors.

Unfair shares

Building societies which convert to banks are refusing to make bonus share pay-outs directly to severely disabled and elderly people.

The Halifax Building Society has even admitted that these customers may actually get fewer shares.

One customer who will lose out is Matthew Ward, who lives in St Albans, and has an account in his mother Hazel's name with the Alliance & Leicester. She has an account there too.

The money in both accounts will be added together when share entitlements are calculated – but shares will go to his mother, not Matthew.

"A number of people who can't manage their financial affairs may be affected. It is unjust," said his father Raymond.

Severely disabled and elderly people often have money in a joint account, with another's name appearing on forms first.

If the first named person has

other accounts in their name with the same society, they can only receive one allocation of shares. The disabled person does not receive money directly.

Matthew also has money in an account operated by a former care worker of a care home where he lives. This person holds a number of accounts for other residents.

The Halifax has admitted the total allocation of shares will be lower in such cases, because individual account holders would each get a basic allocation of shares, and a further sum depending on the amount invested.

The Alliance and Leicester has not yet decided how it will operate in this situation when it becomes a bank in 1997.

Spokesman Geoff Seymour said: "Share allocation will be based on voting eligibility but we have not decided whether there will be differences in the amounts allocated."

TUC backs civil rights

The Trades Union Congress (TUC) has again pushed for full civil rights at its annual conference in September.

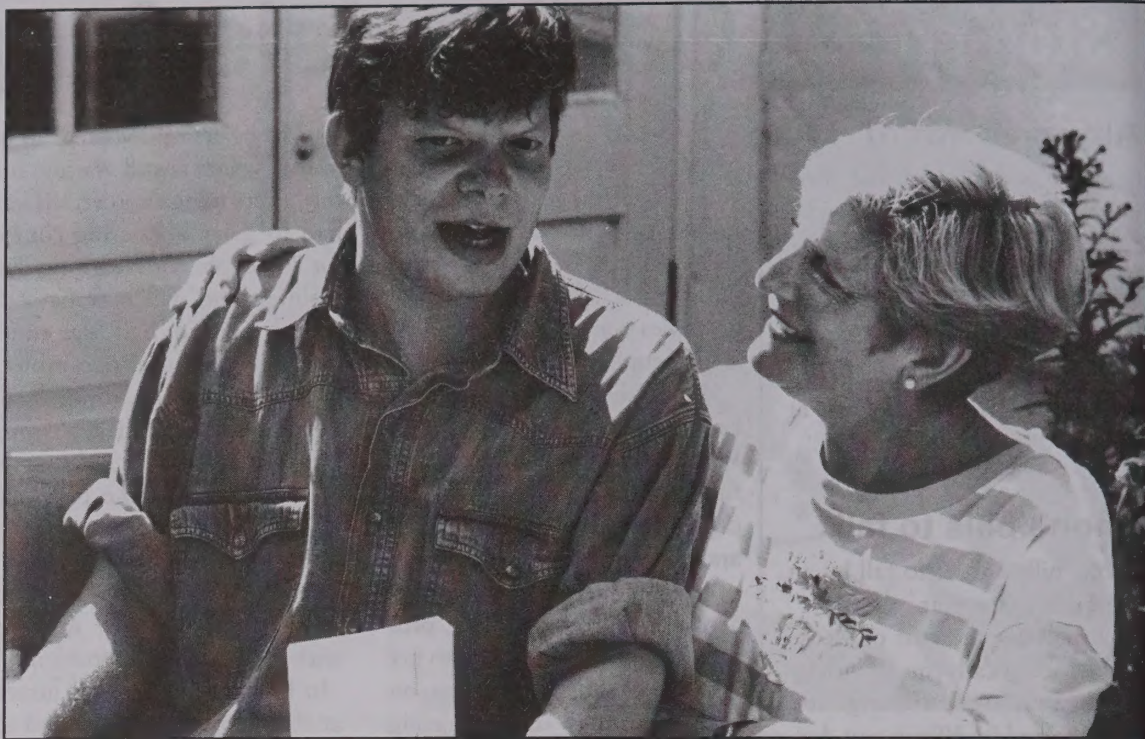
It slammed the Disability Discrimination Act and called on the Government to introduce a Disability (Civil Rights) Bill.

Members also pressed for a Commission which would

investigate cases of discrimination and enforce a new act.

TUC disability policy officer, Richard Exell, said they had always supported civil rights legislation.

"Members feel very strongly about the issue and wanted to be more upfront. It's an ongoing thing."



Shareholders: Matthew Ward with his mother Hazel

DENZIL MCNEELANCE

Shaping up for top award

A project giving disabled people arts training in the Midlands has won a top international award.

East Midlands SHAPE in Nottingham won a gold award for vocational training in the European Community Action programme, Helios, awards.

The group came top for its project which gives customised training in the arts to disabled

people. It has increased the profile of disabled artists and the number of disabled people teaching the arts.

Director Jo Verrent said the award had already secured them extra funding from Nottingham County Council.

"We're over the moon about the award. We'd love the chance to set a similar project up in another European country – or

at least elsewhere in the UK."

St Michael's House Research in Stillorgan, Ireland, won a bronze award for educational integration, for work developing an educational curriculum for those with and without disabilities. And the Centre for Independent Living in Thurles, Ireland, won a gold award for open employment, for its services for disabled people.



Cash dispenser of the future: This smart card machine should make getting cash easier for visually impaired and blind people, as well as those with a mobility impairment.

The prototype features larger characters on the screen, more time for transactions, varying screen colour and voice messages. It can even scan the card without it being taken from your wallet.

It has been developed by the Saturn Project – a consortium of manufacturers and interest groups – which believes we could see the machines on high streets very soon.

RNIB

Mazda Minibus

FROM
£13495

PLUS VAT
With Wheelchair
Facilities!



Designed and built
to your specifications by the
UK's top Mazda Bus supplier.

- 9 seater
- Wheelchair access
- Optional hydraulic hide-away lift
- Choice of 2.0 litre petrol and 2.2 litre diesel engines
- Power steering
- Central locking
- Stereo radio/cassette
- 3 year/60,000 miles Mazda warranty
- All-round safety belts

Contact Malcolm on 01509 610267
or after hours on 01509 673401

HOWLETT'S

MAZDA

Mazda at Loughborough
Clarence Street, Loughborough Tel: 01509 266901

ILKESTON CO-OP MOTOR GROUP WINNERS
of the prestigious
UK Motor Industry award for
CUSTOMER CARE

HANDCYCLING MADE EASY

The age of handcycling has born a new dawn, with the invention of the user friendly TRACKER. No more spanners and struggling with heavy framework; just slot it in, twist it into place and lock it in ready for a Sunday afternoon cycle with the kids or nipping to the pub with your mates. In fact it's quicker than putting on your jacket.

The TRACKER attaches and detaches quicker than you can take your jacket off, allowing you to remove it while you go into a pub or shop. The adaptor ensures that the unit is always in position ready for you to snap into place and cycle away almost instantly.

If you wish to see the TRACKER or would like further information, phone on FREEPHONE 0500 434493 or write to CJS CUSTOM, FREEPOST NWW 3068, ELLESMERE PORT, L66 1BR.

Please send me more information on the TRACKER.

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel No. _____

DN10/96



STANDARD FEATURES

7 Speed Shimano NEXUS system

Ergonomically designed handles

Back pedal hub brake * Maintenance free front wheel

16" x 2" Front Tyre * Chain covers

Incapacity test gives unlucky break

A disabled woman claims she was left with broken bones after undergoing the medical test for Incapacity Benefit.

Sarah Chapman, from Newcastle, who has spondylosis affecting her spine and neck, was given the examination in July.

During the test she was asked to kneel down but found she could not get back up.

She claims the benefits agency doctor refused to help her up, and as she was trying to get up, she broke bones in her hand.

"The doctor just turned her back and walked away when I told her that I was in pain, having hurt my hand and that she would have to help me," Sarah, 44, said.

"It took me about five minutes to get to my feet."



Injured: Sarah Chapman

Her doctor later told her that she had injured herself. She has now made an official complaint.

Ironically, Sarah then received a letter from the benefits agency saying she was not entitled to the benefit, although it has now been reinstated.

Sarah worked for 23 years before an accident at work in 1991 led to her spondylosis. She had previously been receiving

Invalidity Benefit until Incapacity Benefit was introduced in 1995.

A Benefits Agency spokesperson said: "Our medical services are conducting a full investigation. Doctors tailor a medical examination to a customer's expected ability. They would not ask them to perform activities which they thought they could not achieve."



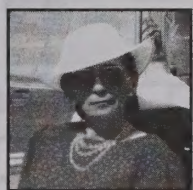
Butlins snubs disabled visitor

Butlins has put up the "no vacancies" sign for a disabled holidaymaker after she complained about her room.

Norah Tunney (pictured right), who is an electric wheelchair user, arrived at Butlins Holidays' Ocean Hotel in Brighton on 26 July for a week-long stay.

But she found the room and shower were inaccessible and decided to leave.

Norah, from Hove, wrote to



complain. Four days later Butlins told her she was not welcome back because there were not enough porters to meet her extra needs, such as moving a bed and fitting a mattress raiser.

Hotel general manager Jim Waldock said: "I have to stop the whole hotel and rearrange my staff to accommodate her

requests. I have the perfect right to refuse any booking. It's not because of her disability."

Norah is upset and believes she is being discriminated against. "I have been to the hotel a number of times before and stayed in accessible rooms," she said. "I was no more of a problem than any able-bodied person."

"I never required any assistance or room service and used to take my own porta-hoover to clean the room myself."



Sunny outlook: Forty elderly blind and partially sighted people from Birmingham and their carers will enjoy the first holiday they have had in years thanks to the Promenade Appeal run by Help the Aged and Action for Blind People. Paralympic swimmer Chris Holmes met two of the elderly holidaymakers who will be going to either Bognor Regis or Weston-super-Mare. CATERS PHOTOGRAPHIC

STAIR CLIMBING AND STANDING UP SOLUTIONS



Many architectural barriers can be dealt with by climbing stairs, or by standing up and reaching new heights. With a large choice of models the correct solution can be found from total user independence to attendant assisted. Our range of ramps for home, car, travel, complete the solution options.

FREE DEMONSTRATIONS, ASSESSMENTS.

- UK's largest range of stairclimbers
- Prices from £2,850-£12,500
- User operated
- Carer controlled
- No building alterations
- Used at work, school and home
- Free demonstrations

CONTACT
JOHN CHAMBERLAIN
WHEELCHAIR
CORPORATION LTD
Inc Moor House, Chelmarsh, Bridg-
north, Shropshire WV16 6AZ
Tel: 01746 861940 Mobile: 0374
274919 Fax: 01746 862085



- Stand up at home, work
- Socially, sports, leisure
- Improves general health
- Folding manual model
- All powered options
- Simple one hand control
- Use at a rehabilitation centre

Glide upstairs on a Stannah Stairlift.



Buy direct from the world's most experienced manufacturer.

CALL FREEPHONE

0800 715124

For a free survey call us or post the coupon

Are you enquiring for your Household ☐ or a relative living elsewhere ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE



Post to: Stannah Stairlifts Limited, Dept 8700, FREEPOST, SA344, Andover, Hants SP10 3SD.



A family demonstrated outside school gates in a bid to admit their son into mainstream education.

Pete and Wendy Crane, from Preston, pictured with Niki and clinical psychologist John Kenworthy (right) now need to find at least £20,000 to fund the legal challenge to support Niki, 13, who has severe learning difficulties.

Niki went to primary school for six years, and was set to move up to senior school until Tarleton High School refused to accept him.

Mum Wendy said: "Educational psychologists, teachers and speech therapists all backed a two-term trial for Niki at senior school. We were really upset and went to a Special Needs Tribunal."

The family lost and were told Niki would have to go to The Elms special school in Fulwood – 17 miles away.

Until recently, disabled children were entitled to legal aid to help them meet court fees, but now parents must find the cash themselves.

• Midge Caryer won an appeal to send daughter Kate, 12, who has cerebral palsy, to mainstream school. Midge, from north London, won the appeal against Haringey Council which had wanted to send Kate to a special needs school.

ORMSKIRK ADVERTISER

Blind people still find job door shut

Most blind and visually impaired people still live below the poverty line because of employment discrimination, according to a new report, *Blind in Britain: The Employment Challenge*.

A Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) survey of 60 blind and visually impaired people, found 63 per cent were not in work. Of these, 58 per cent had not worked in ten years.

The report complements another by the Institute for Employment Studies (IES), published earlier in the year. *Recruitment and Retention of Disabled People* found that 51 per cent of employers said they would not hire someone who had "difficulty in seeing". This

was ahead of people with learning disabilities (30.6 per cent), people with impaired mobility (26.4 per cent), and those with depression or nervous and mental disorders (22.6 per cent).

Robert Latham, a graduate from Newcastle Upon Tyne, is an information and advocacy officer for visually impaired people. He had applied for 136 jobs before he found work. Job clubs were not geared to his needs, he said.

"They offered me jobs that they would not have expected other graduates to do."

Discrimination against disabled people in the workplace will become illegal in December when the employment rights of the Disability Discrimination

Act come into force, said RNIB's Steve Winyard, author of the report.

The report is part of a joint employment initiative involving the RNIB and five other groups. Out of Sight – Out of Work? will encourage employers to recruit visually impaired people.

The most common reasons employers gave for not employing disabled people were a lack of disabled applicants or that a disabled person had left and not been replaced.

Blind in Britain: The Employment Challenge, £5, RNIB, tel: (0345) 023153

The Recruitment and Retention of People with Disabilities, £35, BEBC Ltd, tel: (01202) 715555

Steal on wheels

A wheelchair user held up a chip shop owner with an imitation gun. Darren Staddon, 21, of Gloucester demanded £70 from the owner before escaping in the chair.

He was given a two-year suspended sentence at Gloucester Crown Court and told that if he was able-bodied he would have been jailed for six years.



Creative coup: 98-year-old sculptor Mary Ashwell, who is blind, has been named one of the country's Women of the Year. Mrs Ashwell, from Uppingham in Leicestershire, won the annual Frink Award for visually impaired women achievers. The award has been running for ten years and is open to the estimated 600,000 visually impaired women in the country. Mrs Ashwell was presented with a cheque for £1,000 by HRH Princess Michael of Kent.

LEICESTER UNIVERSITY

MOBILITY SOLUTIONS

FOR DISABLED DRIVERS & PASSENGERS

WE OFFER A COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE, FROM HAND CONTROLS TO WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE AND WHEELCHAIR DRIVER VEHICLES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN. IF YOU HAVE A MOBILITY PROBLEM CALL US FOR THE SOLUTION.



EXTRA



COURIER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND LITERATURE ON OUR RANGE OF PRODUCTS & SERVICES CONTACT:

**POYNTING
CONVERSIONS**

FARADAY ROAD
CHURCHFIELDS IND. EST.
SALISBURY
WILTSHIRE
SP2 7NR

01722 336048

Dipper Bath Hoist Mk3

The sure and easy way of getting in and out of the bath

So neat, you'll hardly notice it. Reliability – Always there when you need it most. The assistant operated DIPPER bath hoist is fitted simply and quickly over most oblong baths – acrylic or metal – No tools are needed.

The winding handle allows the carer to gently lower and raise the user in comfort and safety. Easy side ways transfer makes the DIPPER bath hoist a super bathing aid. Stores away flat when not in use.

This attractive, robust bath hoist will give you endless service and is used extensively in private and professional homes alike. Supplied to Local Authorities.

* Safe – Portable – Easy wipe clean surface

* Virtually maintenance free

* Will lift 20st in weight

* Plastic-coated steel frame

* **TRY ON APPROVAL**, ask for details of sale-or-return **OR** take advantage of **Sale Price** and order **TODAY!**

Don't miss this very Special Limited Offer and make a BIG saving!

NOW ONLY
£295 +VAT plus P&P
each £10 each

Tel: 01686

627172

HOLLIES LANE, NEWTOWN, POWYS SY16 4JD

DIPPER is perfect for the smaller home – ideal back-up hoist for



SAVE
£55
TODAY

Usually £350.00 + Carriage

JACKSON MEDICAL



Ford Motability can help you realise your driving ambition.



With the Ford Motability programme, you could soon be driving a new Ford.

If you or a member of your family either receive the Higher Rate Mobility Allowance, or are registered as disabled, you can choose from a wide range of Ford cars through finance schemes or outright purchase.

Our most popular scheme includes insurance, roadside assistance cover, servicing and the reassuring support of one of the

UK's largest network of Motability dealers.

If you cannot drive yourself, you can still benefit from Ford Motability. Parents, spouses or carers can be nominated as drivers for disabled people using this programme.

Call free on **0800 240 241** (quoting M41) for details of how Ford Motability and your nearest Motability dealer can help you realise your driving ambition.



Motability

Road is long for transport access

Just because there will be more disabled people in the future, it does not mean there will be better transport arrangements, a debate on transport and disability heard.

Ex-Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR) chairman, Sir Peter Baldwin, added that the issue of accessible transport needed a political push that it was presently not getting.

He said: "If you do something which helps people who can't use the present system and make it better, it benefits everyone."

The debate, at Brunel University, London, in September, heard that the mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance

was seen by some as an outdated benefit which did not ultimately improve transport.

Ann Frye, director of the mobility unit at the Department of Transport, said it did not always meet the additional costs of transport.

"For most people it just disappears into the household spending pot," she said.

Pam Moffatt, of the Greater London Association of Disabled People, agreed. She added that the Government was denying its responsibility for transport, as it was for community care.

"The burden of cost is going back on the individual. People are now having to pay for taxis to hospital," she said.

Douglas Campbell, of the Disabled Drivers' Association, thought that even if more funding was given to accessible transport, it might not have the desired effect.

"Those of us who use expensive transport will trade down to cheaper transport. But those who use Dial-a-Ride services may not trade up to public transport because Dial-a-Ride offers more choice."

Irvine Lavery, of the Transport Research Group at Ulster University, said "more accessible mainstream transport" was a myth put out by public relations departments.

"People have to get to the bus stops in the first place."



Talking point: tv presenter Anthea Turner and user Rory Dyer launch the Talking Newspaper Association's larger service. The charity puts 185 newspapers and magazines onto audio cassette for blind and visually impaired people.

CONCERN COMMUNICATIONS

Sergeant wants forces to be PC

A Scottish policeman hopes to improve the way police officers deal with disabled people throughout the UK.

Sergeant Ronnie Dukes, of Strathclyde Police, is starting a year-long study into the needs of disabled people who come into contact with the police.

He will ask disabled people and police officers to complete questionnaires on the subject and will then develop new methods of training officers.



Aware: Sergeant Dukes

A set of recommendations for good practice will be sent to

every police force in the UK.

"There has been no specific police training or guidance on how to deal with disabled people," said Ronnie. "I would like opinions from disabled people nationwide."

The project will help police respond to the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Ronnie Dukes c/o Cranstonhill Police Office, 945 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G3 8JG

Tunnelling in the spotlight

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is to study the effects of tunnelling in compressed air.

The aim is to improve knowledge on how decompression may cause problems such as the niggles and the bends which are also experienced by divers.

It is thought these may lead to long-term health problems such as bone necrosis which damages joints and can cause arthritis.

Attention will focus on London's Jubilee Line Extension (JLE), where up to 28 tunnellers working for construction firm Aoki Soletanche experienced the niggles earlier this year.

A spokesperson for the HSE said that a number of studies would examine guidelines on

decompression times. They would also look at why some tunnellers are affected and others are not.

"This was not prompted by the JLE problems. But there does appear to have been a high incidence on the section involved," he said.

Dr John King, a Harley Street expert, said: "There is variation in individual susceptibility. There are some men who you should not put in compressed air."

Dr Valerie Flook, of Aberdeen University, who is carrying out one of the studies, warned that the precise causes of the problem were not yet known.

As DN went to press the HSE was due to introduce new regulations on compressed air work.

How to read with your eyes closed



Talking books
for people
who are
not blind,
but cannot read
for other
reasons or
cannot hold
a book.

THE
LISTENING
LIBRARY

12 LANT STREET • LONDON SE1
TEL: 0171 407 9417

Group is all go

More than 20 groups of disabled people have formed the Norfolk Coalition of Disabled People's Organisations (NCDOP). It aims to help ensure disabled people have full access in all areas of life.

Tel: (01603) 434657

Rain or Shine...

What does the forthcoming British winter have in store for us? Well, it's notoriously fickle, but if you want to be prepared, no matter what Mother Nature sends, you can't do better than consider the Simplantex range.

For your free brochure detailing our new range of fashion and weatherwear products and a no obligation money-off voucher for your first order, ring our hotline now. The first step towards comfort, warmth and looking good.

Look Good and Feel Great

HOTLINE 01323 644221



FOR ALL THAT'S BEST IN WHEELCHAIR WEAR

THE SIMPLANTEX PROTECTIVE WEATHERWEAR RANGE, PLUS ALL NEW "TAILORED" JEANS, CHINOS, BLAZERS and TROUSERS

Dept DN2, Healthcare House, Willowfield Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 8AP.
Telephone 01323 411618. Fax 01323 412781. Internet www.simplantex.co.uk



PATENT AND DESIGN COPYRIGHT

**Why not look us up at the
Birmingham International Motor
Show, October
14-27 at
NEC!**

All seat belt anchorages
have been tested to the
highest European M1
Passenger Vehicle
Standards



Exhibition Dates:-
Northern Mobility Roadshow
- Sheffield - Fri 30th August
to Sun 1st September

Naidex - Wembley Tues 24th
to Thurs 26th September

Community Transport
- Blackpool Thurs 13th
to Sat 15th November

Why Buy A Copy When You Can Have An Original

THE BROTHERWOOD VW SHARAN *from £23,471 on the road*

Specialised transport for wheelchair passengers

Phone now for details on our Lease Hire and Secondhand Converted Vehicles also ask for our comprehensive brochure giving full details on all our vehicles



BROTHERWOOD
AUTOMOBILITY LIMITED

Pillar Box Lane, Beer Hackett, Sherborne, Dorset. DT9 6QP Tel: 01935 872603 Fax: 01935 872853



The Renault Eco



The Ford Combi



The Nissan Cargo 60



The Nissan Serena

Flu virus may hold the key

Experiments on a collection of 70-year-old brains and lungs could prevent a worldwide brain disease outbreak.

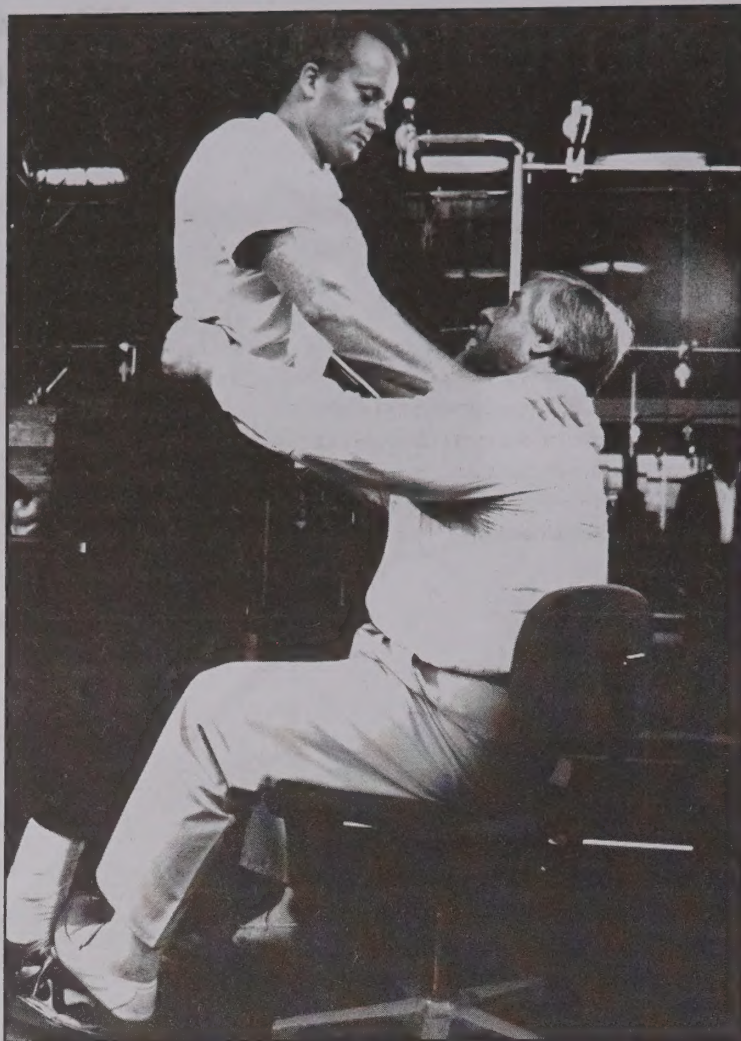
Scientists at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London, are using organs preserved decades ago to search for links between flu and neurological illness. They aim to establish whether the flu virus can attack the brain.

Forty million people worldwide were killed by flu in 1918. This was followed by bouts of sleeping sickness and Parkinson's disease.

If the two are linked, it is feared a new flu outbreak could lead to an epidemic of neurological diseases. Flu pandemics occurred in 1918, 1957 and 1968, and scientists say there could be another at any time.

"There will be another pandemic – it is just a question of when," said John Oxford, Professor of Virology at the Royal London.

"We could be pro-active and think of making experimental vaccines which may work when the pandemic arrives," he added.



Feat of strength: Russian Valentin Dikual (seated) teaches Matthew Stockman how to defy doctors. The strongman in the Moscow State Circus was told he would never walk again after an accident in the big top. Mr Stockford, who broke his back in a skiing accident, spent time in Moscow learning the techniques.

CHANNEL 4

advantage of new treatments, a survey by the MS Resource Centre (MSRC) has revealed.

Those with the relapsing and remitting form of the condition in the UK are confused over what is available, it claims.

Patients find it difficult to get information from their doctors about new drugs such as Betaferon; they are available in

some regions and not in others and there are concerns over side effects.

John Simkins, information executive at MSRC, called for improved communication.

A three-year study of ms patients using Betaferon in North America found that the frequency of attacks fell by a third and the number of severe relapses were halved.

Noise is a sound idea

A theory about the cause of ice ages could revolutionise the lives of profoundly deaf people, scientists at Keele University claim.

They believe feeble signals such as sound can be strengthened by adding random disturbance to help deaf people hear.

Professor Ted Evans and student Robert Morse, from Keele's department of communication and neuro-science, are looking at using controlled disturbance to improve the sound quality of cochlear implants.

Wave-like changes in the shape of the earth's orbit may lie behind altering climates, but it is thought that resonance caused by random disturbances such as volcanoes forces major upheaval.

The pair believe that by adding noise to the surgical implants, the quality of the final sound will be greatly improved.

"It sounds counter-intuitive, but by adding the right amount of random noise to the implants we think we can make them more effective," said Mr Morse.

So far, experiments involving nerves taken from toads have been very successful.

Sickle cell discovery

An international medical breakthrough could transform the way people with sickle cell are treated.

Scientists in Birmingham who are taking part in a Euro-American project, have successfully used intravenous bone marrow transplants to treat three children who have the life-threatening blood disorder.

If the treatment proves a long-term success, it will be the first cure for this condition.

"This study represents an important first step in finding a potential cure," said consultant haematologist Phil Darbyshire, who is leading the research team.

Diabetes on the rise

People with diabetes face blindness, limb amputations, strokes, and heart disease, because insufficient money is spent on diagnosis.

And the condition costs the country at least £1 billion more than previous estimates, according to a new report from the British Diabetic Association (BDA).

One million people in the UK have been diagnosed with non-insulin dependent diabetes, the most common form of the condition, and complications often go undetected.

A further one million people may have gone undiagnosed.

The report, by the King's Fund Policy Institute, estimates that treatments for diabetes cost the NHS at least £2 billion each year, making up eight per cent of hospital spending.

But with an increasingly overweight and ageing population this is set to rise, says the report.

"We can save people's eyes, limbs, and even their lives if we intervene early enough with diagnosis and proper health care," said BDA chairman Harry Keen.

Counting the Cost: The Real Impact of Non Insulin Dependent Diabetes, £10.50. Tel: (0800) 585088

Brain pH linked to cleverness

Scientists working on a study of children with muscular dystrophy have discovered that intelligence may be linked to the level of chemical acidity in the brain (pH).

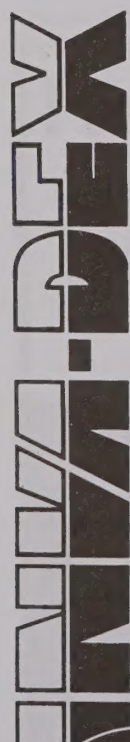
Research at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford measured the acid content in the brains of 42 boys aged between six and 13 who did not have muscular dystrophy. It showed that those with a more alkaline brain pH were likely to have a higher IQ.

It is the first time that intelligence has been linked to a biochemical "marker" in the brain.

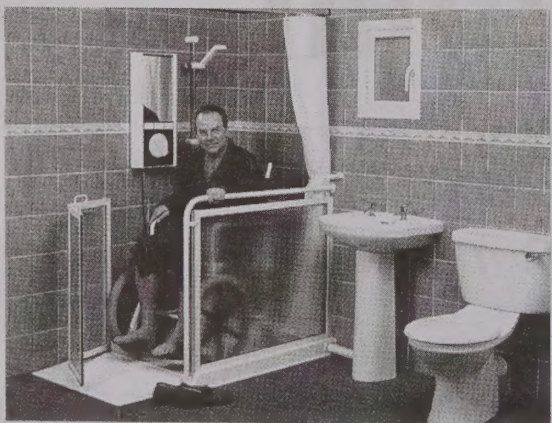
It raises the prospect that one day it may be possible to artificially increase people's intelligence levels.

Patients lose out

People with multiple sclerosis (ms) in the UK are not taking



Manufacturing specialists in shower bases & enclosures for those with special needs.



Innovative care products for independent living. Check what we can offer you.

FREE Survey

5 YEAR guarantee & quality Standard ISO9002

Full after sales service

A wide range of products with colour choice

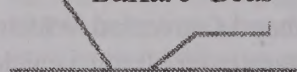
If you are experiencing difficulties in showering or bathing, We have the solution to your problem

INVA-DEX LTD.

66-68 Manchester Road, Chapel-En-Le-Frith, via Stockport, Derbyshire, SK12 6RZ. Tel: 01298 816366 Fax: 01298 816106

BROCHURE REQUEST FREE PHONE 0800 716652

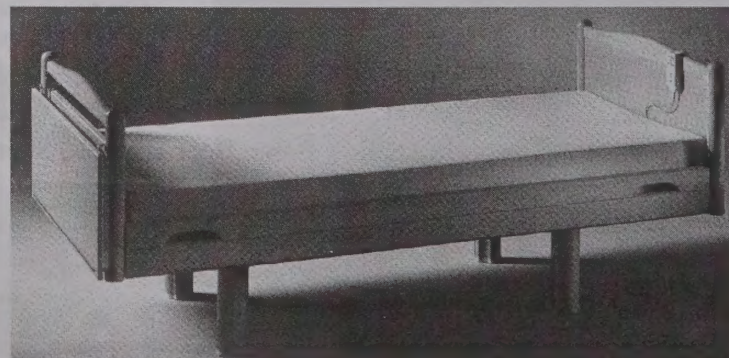
BaKare Beds



This Volker Home Nursing Bed from BaKare Beds is fully adjustable to 'Sit U up' at the touch of a button, and with motorised height adjustment to 'stand U' up', or for Nursing.

DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES !

This is a Multifunctional Nursing Bed with height adjustment.



Unit 17, Bell Park, Bell Close, Plympton, PLYMOUTH PL7 4JH. Tel :01 752 34 22 22

Half a century of progress

Mencap is 50 this year, but it is still struggling to get parents the help they need, reports Helen Gregory

Fifty years ago children with learning disabilities were labelled mental defectives, idiots and imbeciles, and parents were advised to "put them away".

Mencap, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults, was founded during this climate in 1946, and has seen many positive changes during the last half a century.

But although terminology has improved, Mencap insists people with learning disabilities still face misunderstanding and discrimination throughout their lives. In a report launched in August, *Lessons From Our Lives*, it says parents are still being denied the information they need to make vital choices.

Learning disability is the most common form of disability and affects about 1.2 million people.

Most of them want paid employment, not a place at a day centre.

But they are usually on social security benefits and there is even a shortfall of about 30,000 day centre places for adults in the community.

Judy Fryd founded the Association of Backward Children in 1946 (which later became Mencap) after her daughter Felicity was born in the 1930s.

She says: "Mencap has done many important things since I started the organisation, but it breaks my heart that so many families still have nobody to turn to for help."

In 1955 the association changed its name to the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and helped create the Mental Health Act three years later.

Years of campaigning finally resulted in the 1971 Education Act which entitled more than 24,000 children to special education. In 1980 the society became Mencap.

Institutions were the only option for many people for much of this century and even in the late 1970s more than 1,300 people were still being admitted to hospital every year.

Now, Mencap manages 500 residential homes offering supported living accommodation to 3,000 people.

Its employment service has helped 6,000 people get training and work placements during the last ten years.

It also has three specialist residential further education colleges and a wide range of community-based leisure facilities.

There are 450 local groups around the country, but 60 per cent of the members have adult children. Mencap wants more young parents to join.

Spokesperson Frances Tuke says: "Health professionals are meant to give out names and addresses of local voluntary organisations like our local groups to parents. This doesn't always happen."

Spokesman for the People First organisation, Andrew Bright, argues that Mencap needs to involve more people with learning disabilities in its decision-making process.

Group member Simone Aspis agrees: "People should come to us instead and see we have the mandate for people with learn-



Independent Ray: Mencap enables many people like Ray Bennett to live in their own homes HUW JOHN

ing disabilities. Mencap would then dwindle away. It simply started up with the wrong philosophy."

Jean Collins, director of learn-

ing disability rights group Values Into Action, says Mencap is listening more to what people with learning disabilities want, not just their parents.

"There's bound to be tension there, though the emphasis is shifting."

But Mencap chief executive Fred Heddell defends the society's role, saying that 80 per cent of people with learning disabilities live at home with their families.

"People need to be empowered but unless they are provided with proper information there's no chance."

"We do provide a paternalistic service to some people, but with the many profoundly mentally handicapped, it's difficult not to."

"The trick is making sure that we don't step in and take charge where we don't need to."

Mencap's effect on real lives

Mencap has helped thousands of people with learning disabilities, and their parents, over the years with advice and a better quality of life.

Susan Card, from Orpington in Kent, cares for her one-year-old son Thomas, who has Down's Syndrome.

She turned to her local Mencap group to get help when she

could not get Disabled Living Allowance for Thomas. A welfare adviser helped her successfully apply for the higher rate.

She says: "It's probably the best time to have a child with learning disabilities because there is so much being done for them as babies."

Ray Bennett (pictured above) is 37 and shares a residential

home in Penylan, Wales, with three others after 20 years as a long-term resident of Ely Hospital.

He was pleased to move into the community. "The staff at the hospital were okay but they didn't give you any privacy."

"Now I do my own shopping and cook what I like. I can watch football when I want."



As easy as 123

Constable's unique Carchair system provides the ultimate freedom and independence for the wheelchair user. By adapting into either the passenger or driver's seat of a standard production car; the Carchair eliminates the need to purchase a special vehicle.

Comprising of a specially designed wheelchair and lift system the Carchair is extremely simple to operate.

To arrange a free demonstration of this, or any Constables product without obligation, please telephone or write.

Constables
LTD

CONSTABLES LTD • DEPT DN • FREEPOST (BR1032) • WESTHAM • PEVENSEY • EAST SUSSEX • BN24 5BR • TELEPHONE: (01323) 767574

'Alice had 11 teachers and she was working eight hours a day'

Professor Reuven Feuerstein has helped many children with learning disabilities that others have given up on. Parent Peter Batkin talks to Mary Wilkinson.

Alice was born eleven years ago with brain damage. Her language and physical coordination developed slowly and her behaviour was odd.

Then came Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD), in effect masking the brain damage. That was diagnosed by Professor Taylor at the Maudsley Hospital, one of only two professors in the south who really understand ADHD.

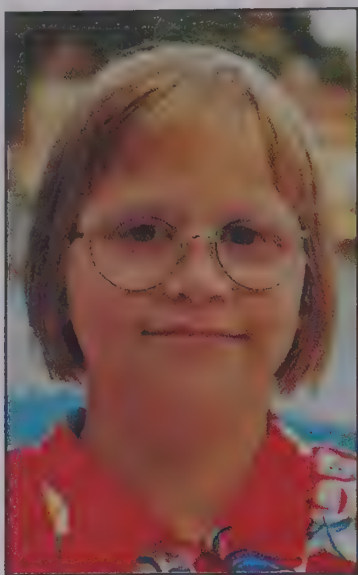
In due course Alice got her statement. I'm married to a GP and I'm a pressured person myself (he works at Sotheby's). We trusted the state. We were told Alice should go to a school for people with moderate learning difficulties. So we sent her. But nothing seemed to happen.



Alice starts work with Professor Feuerstein...

She was just vegetating. Then one magic day about four years ago we saw a tv documentary on the work of Professor Reuven Feuerstein of the International Centre for Enhancement of Learning Potential (ICLP) in Israel. Professor Feuerstein worked with traumatised child survivors of the Holocaust and later, after studying educational psychology in Geneva, he started working with children with learning disabilities. He

rejects the "nothing can be done" approach. His whole methodology is aimed at maximising the child's potential and his intensive regime of cognitive exercises have helped thousands of children. By inundating the professor with phone calls and faxes, we eventually reached him. It turned out he was coming to London, so we agreed I would pick him up and have Alice with me. Immediately, there was something magic. Alice was scared of strangers; she would always hide behind us. But when the professor came out of the terminal, he put his hand out and Alice ran straight to him, took his hand and we walked like that to the car. That was the first time I realised he was a very special man. He told us to bring Alice to Jerusalem for a proper appraisal. We went that December and stayed six weeks. My wife and son came back half-way through and I stayed on. The appraisal and teaching is one to one. Alice had 11



...and Alice this summer

different teachers and she was working eight hours a day. I remember how they taught her to say "yellow" when she would only say "lellow", by getting her to jump on two squares on the floor, one marked "yell", the other "low". She said the words, then jumped over a bucket saying the whole word, and she did this faster and faster until she'd got it.

She also went to a gymnasium where she worked with another marvellous man Uri Michaeli, building up her understanding of commands, her memory and self confidence. Before she went out she wouldn't put her foot on the pedal of a bike. After six weeks she was climbing a rope higher than this ceiling.

Alice has been to Jerusalem three times. She comes back from each trip with that much more knowledge of how to work and self confidence. Now she strings thoughts together and expresses them: "I am going to get up. I will have breakfast and go to school." She couldn't have done that a year ago.

I want to emphasise that this is not a miracle cure; it's bloody hard work over many years, building up those learning blocks.

But the professor is a genius. He has this insight into a child, which often is not reflected in his relationship with adults, hence a somewhat disorganised institute and financial problems.

Some people think that with its nice building the institute is subsidised by the state, but it is

in tremendous financial difficulties. The professor just says "come".

You can't pay the full cost of all this therapy and you don't have to.

You can give a donation, say £1,000 or £1,500 if you stay a month. Otherwise you have the airfare and your living costs.

After the initial appraisal, the professor said Alice should be in mainstream school with her peers. So when we got back we started a dialogue with our local authority, Brent.

We were lucky that the headteacher of the Mora primary school in Cricklewood has a very progressive attitude to children with special needs, and eventually Alice went there, funded by Brent, which also pays for a part-time support teacher.

We pay for speech therapy, occupational therapy and lessons using Feuerstein's methods on Saturday and Sunday. So, yes, we're broke.

Our next big hurdle will be secondary school – and the National Curriculum which is no use to a child with special needs. I imagine Brent will try and push for a special school, but there is no way Alice is going to one.

My fight now is to set up, with other parents, an institute in London. We can't expect to go to Jerusalem all the time and there is nothing for children with learning difficulties here. The attitude is your child has a label, go and have a nice life.

The institute will also have one to one teaching, be open to anyone, and free. Professor Feuerstein has given us his blessing because, I think, we are parents. He will be here for a weekend seminar in December.

The Hope Charity is registered, has £20,000, and needs to raise more quickly to pay for people to have proper training in Israel – not just a few weeks' introduction. We hope staff will come from Israel too. Our plan is for 30 teachers in two years' time and a building. Our target is an endowment of £9 million.

There are no upper limits on our minds. I am not prepared to accept someone saying "be realistic". Once I start thinking of a limit, then there is a limit to my child.

She has a right to a normal life, and I will do absolutely anything to achieve that aim.

The Hope Charity, PO Box 10365, London NW2 6WH

Parent's voice feedback

Many readers have commented on subjects raised on this page. Next month we shall print some of them. If you have a view, let us know.

Get DN delivered to your door...

Here's your chance to receive this award winning newspaper every month. To become a subscriber, just fill in the coupon below and return it to us.

Individual at home address

– £14 (12 issues)

£27 (24 issues)

☐

Professional/organisation

– £19 (12 issues)

£37 (24 issues)

☐

Disabled person on Income Support or income based Jobseeker's Allowance

– Free

(Please enclose a photocopy of your entitlement notice or the front cover of your order book showing your name.)

☐

Overseas (airmail)

– £30 (12 issues)

☐

Name

Address

.....

.....Postcode.....

Pay by credit card or cheque

(payable to Disability Now)

Multiple copy rates available on request

DisabilityNOW

Please return to:

DN, 12 Park Crescent,

FREEPOST 17,

London W1E 3HU,

tel: 0171-383 4575.

Tel: 0171-383 4575

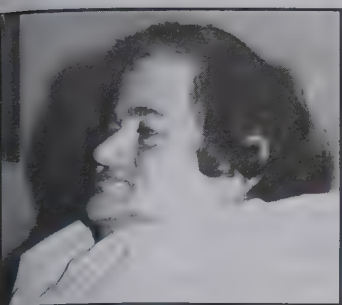
24 hrs

CORNWALL

Holiday Care in Cornwall all year round

LANINVAL HOUSE Nursing Home offers holidays, respite, residential and convalescence care in beautiful surroundings in mid-Cornwall.

Qualified Nursing and Care staff on hand 24 hours per day. Phone/Fax Murray or Shirley on 01208 74921 for a brochure.



David Griffiths, DN's motoring reviewer, guides you through the goodies at this year's show

If last year's Wembley event was over-hyped and under-inflated, this year's will be anything but.

Take the venue for a start. The National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, has parking for all, adapted toilets in all the halls (admittedly some better than others), wheelchair access throughout and caring, understanding staff.

Then there's the special features, like the 1896 Daimler, which takes pride of place on the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' stand, and the Concept Car for the year 2096. (Internet users can cruise in on

<http://www.csad.coventry.ac.uk/car2096> for a glimpse ahead.)

Even the opening will be different. On Sunday 13 October, a huge 50ft by 30ft cinema screen will provide a unique drive-in cinema from which a major new feature film will be beamed to a celebrity driving audience, as both the motor and cinema industries come together to celebrate their centenaries.

Choose your special day

As with previous motor shows, special feature days will ensure maximum interest is maintained throughout.

The show starts with two trade days after the press launch.

The public enters the fray on Saturday 19 October – a day best avoided unless you want to study the backs of the people in front of you rather than the motoring goodies – and the show closes on Sunday 27 October.

Making use of the feature days can enhance your visit considerably.

Centenary Day, 23 October, is a must for vintage enthusiasts, with the very best of classic motoring from the past 100 years to drool over.

Williams, Ferrari and Lotus buffs will prefer Motor Sports Days, 25 and 26 October, whilst if your visit includes Aunt Ada, Cousin George's twins and your own junior formula outfit, choose 27 October, Family Day, with special entertainments for younger wheelers.

100 years of motoring!



Two to look out for: The Toyota Camry (left) with electronically controlled four-speed automatic transmission, and Fiat's new Marea (right)

New cars to see

Fiat has just announced the launch of the Marea range of saloon.

There's also a chance to see the 1996 Car of the Year, the Bravo, now fitted with British Garrett turbo boosted diesel



engines, and the high performance Coupe 20-V Sports for faster folk.

Fiat don't do well in the UK disability market in relation to their rivals. It is a matter of personal affront as far as I can deduce from a meeting I had with senior Fiat directors in Italy. Fiat has gone overboard for the Select continuously

variable transmission, a feature which undoubtedly does not enhance its status with disabled drivers and instructors.

Toyota will launch the V6 Camry with electronically controlled four-speed automatic transmission, which shifts according to your driving style. (The same transmission will go into the new versions of RAV4, a four-wheel-drive automatic, fast finding favour with certain disabled users, including some using Motability.

Smart people carriers

People carriers continue to be the "in" form of transport for families. They are often deceptive in appearing to offer greater load space than they actually do, but there is no denying their attraction or the sales potential.

Watch out for the new

automatic Alhambra from Seat, Honda's superb American derived Shuttle, and the first such vehicle from Vauxhall, as yet unnamed, and about which they are being somewhat secretive – will they show it, or won't they?

Maybe they are hoping we will all visit their stand to find out.

Thousands of bolt-goodies, useful add-ons, attractive accessories and safety items will form a vast retail pavilion – almost a complete show in itself – where most items can be purchased and taken away on the day.

Finally, if you've got a pain in the family who is just not into cars and motoring, the Ideal Home Show, Connect '96, and the Home Personal Computer Show are all in neighbouring halls at the same time.

How to get there

Take M6 or M42 and follow the signs. If you need more precise directions, phone RAMP, tel: (01743) 761181 for your Ramp route planner. By train, go to Birmingham International, which is wheelchair accessible. The NEC is adjacent to the station.

Parking

Drive to control point one and stop at the barrier. Ask for disabled parking and make sure your orange badge is available for inspection.

Tickets

Tickets for the Motor Show cost £9 for an adult, £5 for "senior citizens" and children. Tel: 0121-767 4455 for advance tickets.

Saab has a range of cars that is both practical and spacious and yet boasts elegant styling and an enviable level of comfort. It may also surprise you to know that a Saab is regarded as one of the safest cars on the road with ABS, a driver's airbag, crumple zones and side impact protection as standard on all models. In addition, all Saabs are equipped with power-assisted steering to make driving that much easier and are made more accessible by large doors and lower sills. With special help available for disabled drivers, a Saab warrants closer inspection. The Saab Range from just £15,495 to £31,395 on the road.



There are many sound reasons
to choose Saab.
Your only dilemma is which one.

For specialist advice on how
to invest your motability allowance
and to learn of the benefits of Saab
ownership, contact our specialist.



Cass Levis
Tel: (0836) 229890



SAAB

beyond the
conventional



Terrorised: Mary McMaster with Prince Philip

Our violent times

Crime is on the increase and the newspapers often carry stories of disabled people who have been attacked. In the first of a series on security, *DN* looks at three recent cases.

Derek Raymond was walking to the shops for a loaf of bread when a gang of teenagers beat him so badly that he needed stitches in his face.

Derek, 19, who has a learning disability and curvature of the spine, is scared to leave his house after the attack – the latest in a string of personal assaults.

During the last few months Derek has been smashed across the face with a stick, punched and kicked, stoned and abused by a gang and chased.

He lives at his family home in Preston, and needs constant care.

Derek had gone to his local shop for a loaf of bread, but before he could walk in, he was

attacked by a gang of teenagers. One of them jumped on him and hit him in the face several times for no apparent reason.

He managed to run home and was taken to hospital by his parents, where he had stitches in his face.

His family told police it had not been the first attack. Raymond has also been hit in the face with a stick by one thug in a park and had bruising on his face.

Inspector Bob Helm, of Preston Police, said it had been a completely unprovoked attack.

"We are very concerned about this.

"The only possible reason for the attack is that Raymond is obviously disabled. He wasn't doing anything wrong."

However Inspector Helm said the police were treating it in the same way as any assault case.

"We are particularly concerned, though, about anyone in a vulnerable position that gets picked on – we find it quite distasteful."

Police are still looking for the gang of teenagers and are appealing for information.

My terrier tormented

A disabled woman's tiny dog was left blind in one eye after it was attacked by a child.

The Yorkshire terrier, Prince Philip, was hit over the head by a ten-year-old boy with a tennis racquet in east London.

Although the dog was rushed to the vet it was too late to save his left eye which had to be removed.

"He's so frightened and cannot really see, it's hard to believe a child could do such a thing," said his owner Mary McMaster who has arthritis.

A gang of six children tormented Prince Philip for hours as he played in the garden of Mary's Bethnal Green flat.

"They were throwing sticks

and stones and climbing on my wall and poking him", said Mary.

"I'm a wheelchair user and cannot chase them away," she added.

When the terrorised dog ran through the gate and barked at one of the attackers, the child hit him hard on the head before the children ran off.

"Children have been tormenting me for over a year. They put things through my letter box which I have now boarded up," said Mary.

The police are aware of the problem and have offered Mary counselling. Hopefully, it will not end there. "I'm determined the child will be caught," she said.



Derek Raymond (right) has been repeatedly attacked by a gang of youths

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST



The New Volkswagen Caravelle by Invatravel Conversions



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including:

- underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts
- hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp
- manual ramps, etc

Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £15,500 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.

Contact Paul Cassidy or David Reid, tel: 01704 506608, Fax: 01704 506607. 66 Knob Hall Lane, Southport PR9 9QS.



APPROVED CONVERTER OF THE VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE RANGE

'I was an easy target'

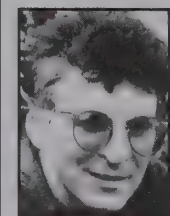
Rob Greenwood (below), 39, of Bradford is access officer of Kirklees Council. He has been attacked twice. He has multiple sclerosis.

The first time was in a street in Bradford ten years ago when a gang of youths forced him to give over his wallet.

"I was using a stick so I looked vulnerable. I was an easy target. They did not attack me physically but took my money.

"It's considered a rough area. There are some places that I just don't go any more."

Two years ago he was attacked in an Indian restaurant by a group of men who had been abusing him verbally after he tripped up. They then began punching Rob and his friend.



The friends both won compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

How to crack crime – your views



'Being alone on a train can feel very threatening. I look round to see where there's a safety button and sit near an exit.'

Gioya Steinke

'Sometimes you have to compromise your safety because you don't have any choices. There are situations where you have to rely on other people to get out of buildings. That can be quite scary.'

Ruth Bailey



'Access to public transport has to improve. A lot of disabled women have to use taxis and are forced into a situation where they are very vulnerable.'

Kim Tserkezie

'I carry a mobile phone. That helps me feel safer.'

Nick Danagher

'Access to buildings could be better, then at least you've got an escape route.'

Silice Karito

Cause for alarm

There are lots of personal alarms on the market, so it's worth shopping around.

Gas alarms, like the one produced by the Suzy Lamplugh Trust, work like an aerosol and can be operated with one hand. But they may freeze up in the cold so you are advised to hold on to them all the time. Electronic alarms are triggered by pulling out a pin with a rip cord and can be more fiddly to use.

Whichever you choose, it needs to be within easy reach.

The trouble is we are all so used to hearing car and house alarms, that this piercing shriek may not attract attention.

GLAD would like to see an alarm which can be worn like a wristwatch – better for people who can't carry one all the time. And why not have one that says "Help, call the police" to attract attention? Will any manufacturer take up the challenge?



JOHN BIRDSALL

Reduce the risk

So how can you protect yourself, asks Alison Miller.

If you have a disability, you are more at risk from crime, according to two recent surveys. They show that disabled people feel more vulnerable to attack than able-bodied people – and with good reason.

A survey by Hammersmith and Fulham Council in 1993 found that half the people interviewed said they never or rarely went out in the evening because of the fear of crime.

And in a study last year by Liberty, the national council for civil liberties, over half the people spoken to had experienced harassment during the previous year. 21 per cent had experienced actual physical violence compared with only one per cent of the general population in England and Wales.

Until recently, little had been done to tackle the problem.

"Personal safety for people with disabilities is a totally neglected

area," says Diana Lamplugh, of personal safety charity The Suzy Lamplugh Trust. "Where able-bodied people have a disproportionate fear of crime, disabled people's fears, it seems, are justified."

The trust is now campaigning to promote safety for disabled people. It has researched the problem and produced a leaflet – *Out and About: a guide for safe travel for disabled people*.

The Greater London Association of Disabled People (GLAD) has also studied the problem.

Director Frances Hasler believes that many disabled people feel vulnerable because of their impairments. For instance someone with mobility difficulties may not be able to get away from a dangerous situation.

This does not mean that you should not go out at all. In fact, Frances Hasler believes the opposite. "Disabled people need to be more visible in society and more mobile, which comes about through removing disabling barriers." Then attitudes will improve and incidents of

harassment should decline.

Another way to reduce the risks is to campaign for better access so that disabled people have more choice of where to go and how to get there. Street lighting needs to improve and more security cameras must be installed.

In Liberty's report only 28 per cent of people who said they had been assaulted told the police.

Frances Hasler believes this may have been due to a lack of understanding. "Many people with learning difficulties or deaf people don't report crimes because of bad experiences with the police." The police should know about Section 154 (see page 16). They are now making moves to improve their disability

A potential danger? Mother-to-be Jo Verrent walks uneasily through a lonely area at night.

awareness (see page 8).

So what can you do to cut down the risks and overcome the fear? First, don't worry unnecessarily. Not every situation will lead to trouble and there are lots of ways you can boost your confidence. Be aware of the possible dangers, and take measures to avoid them.

When going out, plan your route in advance. Leave details of where and when you are going with a friend or in an obvious place. Try and travel in well lit areas and, if possible, keep to the places you know.

Look confident when you go out. If you can, carry a personal alarm. If you use a communication aid, you may be able to pre-programme it to give a warning such as "call the police". Never count cash in the street and never accept lifts from strangers. If you do find yourself in a dangerous situation, don't panic and don't respond with aggression. Always avoid confrontation. For more advice, contact The Suzy Lamplugh Trust.

We all have the right to live without fear. Crime against disabled people needs to be tackled by the Government, police and local authorities. But you must be aware of the risks and how you can avoid them. If you are, you will cut down the fear and make your own life safer.

Suzy Lamplugh Trust, tel: 0181-392 1839

Finding it difficult to arrange life insurance cover?

In conjunction with Tunstall Assurance Society we are able to offer:

- No medical examination required
- No fuss
- Participates in bonus
- From £9 per month

Give us a call on 01789 740855

D.N. Financial Services*

Independent Financial Advisers

25A Banbury Road, Ettington, Warks CV37 7SN

A member of the Kestrel Network

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

Email dneath@dneath.demon.co.uk

Tunstall Assurance Society

Station Chambers, The Boulevard, Tunstall, Stoke on Trent ST6 6DU

Telephone 01782 837870

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

* This service is not connected with Disability Now

BACKPAIN • ARTHRITIS • HIATUS HERNIA

The Concern for Comfort Adjustable Bed has proved to be a boon to sufferers of a wide variety of medical conditions. If you are troubled by:



- arthritis/rheumatism
- high & low back pain
- hiatus hernia
- swollen legs/oedema
- poor circulation
- tight shoulders
- respiratory problems
- stress & tension

CONCERN FOR COMFORT
...the rest comes naturally

Send for a FREE colour brochure

FREEPHONE 0800 371663

Name(Title) _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

CONCERN FOR COMFORT • FREEPOST (PAM 6722) LONDON W13 0BR

Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ
Minicom: 0171-436 9914 Fax: 0171-436 4582
e-mail: dnow@d-access.demon.co.uk

Know your Section 154

I was most interested to read "A way with harassment?" (DN September).

Gangs of youths have repeatedly thrown stones at the properties of the elderly and infirm in Sutton-on-Sea, rampaged across their gardens shouting abuse and vandalised their seafront chalets.

Teenagers regularly hurl abuse at people who are blind, deaf or have learning difficulties. (24.9 per cent of our population is classed as disabled in the 1991 Census.)

From personal experience of our local police force, I have yet to see any evidence of disability

awareness in their behaviour.

As the incidence of harassment seems to be growing, may I suggest you run a feature with legal advice on Section 154.

Trevor Hunt
Mablethorpe, Lincs.

Both the Home Office and the Crown Prosecution Service agree that Section 154 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 can be used for disability harassment, but so far we have discovered no cases. A disabled person reporting harassment to the police should remind them of Section 154 - Editor.

My better respite care

I want to tell you about my experience of respite care provision for adults with physical disabilities in Leicester.

My first visit to a host family lasted a week, in 1995, after an initial meeting mediated by a social worker.

Since then, I have had at least three visits for two weeks at a time. All have been informative, comfortable and entertaining. I

have enjoyed them very much and look forward to the next.

I think an adult placement scheme is the best way forward into the 21st Century. The idea of placing disabled people on respite care in institutions is an antiquated idea which impedes the natural progression and independence of disabled people.

Hilary Gilhooley
Leicester

Poster an insult to disabled people

I believe the Department of Transport's drink and driving poster with a disabled man (*right*) promotes a negative attitude to disabled people rather than a positive message about drink and driving.

The posters are manipulated to make the viewer feel shocked and awkward about disabled people and to give the message that for a disabled person life is empty and not worth living.

This is not only profoundly insulting, but it is a false position belonging to Victorian times. Disabled people are not only getting on with their lives like everyone else, they are also campaigning against the unfair conditions that have been caused by the kind of attitude expressed in these posters. They should be withdrawn.

Rob Greenwood, Bradford



How hard can it be to say no to a drink?

DRINKING AND DRIVING WRECKS LIVES.

Fancy being a Celt?

I enjoyed "Past times" (DN August) that brought the 15th Century re-enactment so vividly to life. But there was no mention that disabled people can take part.

Our family has been involved in similar re-enactment events for some years, starting in the Middle Ages and going back in time to a Celtic group my husband now runs. The group welcomes those who cannot wield a sword or spear or strut their stuff.

Last year I took part in four shows, sitting on a rug-covered stool. I also make clothes at times. Everyone can make a contribution in their own way. There are groups countrywide.

Dianne Green
203 Bicester Road
Aylesbury
Bucks HP19 3BD

Guide dog instructors on the move

Your article ("Loan puts dogs on the spot", DN September) did not explain why we need to provide housing assistance for some employees.

We have 15 centres around the UK and we sometimes require staff to move to fill vacancies. We cannot recruit guide dog mobility instructors from elsewhere.

House prices differ greatly so to make an employee's move possible we may take a part share in their new home. This is

repayable (plus a *pro rata* share of any profits) if the house is sold or they leave the Association.

Your statement that we help about 4,500 people is a serious underestimate. This excludes the many thousands of visually impaired people who are not guide dog owners to whom we provide services.

Alison Radevsky
PR and Marketing Manager
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association
Burghfield, Berkshire

Mobility cuts spread wider

Eileen Hobson rightly complains about the Government's proposed cuts of the mobility component of the Disabled Living Allowance to those in long-term hospital care (DN August).

Another group to suffer would be recipients who have made their own arrangements for the hire-purchase of a car, rather than use Motability (whose customers are protected).

Yet another group are those undergoing rehabilitation in spinal units around the country. Apparently, they will be unable to sign a Motability contract to start the process which would ensure their chosen vehicle is delivered to coincide with their release from hospital.

For the Government to treat disabled people thus, just to increase the potential for tax cutting election bribes, is deplorable.

Tim Shapley OBE
Weston-super-Mare
Somerset

ACCESSIBLE SHARAN NO HUMPS, NO BUMPS & NOT A VAN!



- Retaining all the standard interior and exterior features of the VW Sharan
- There is the option of single or double light-weight loading ramps
- A retractable side step is also available



- Our adaption of this ultra modern people carrier is designed primarily to carry a wheelchair bound passenger and up to 5 other persons



- Our dedicated wheelchair area caters for 95% of standard & electrical chairs in use

All vehicles are tailored to individual needs. Prices from £16,818 on the road
Telephone for a no obligation one day free trial



AUTOMOTIVE GROUP
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

24 DIANA STREET, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE4 6BQ
TELEPHONE: (0191) 226 0099 FAX: (0191) 272 1313



DN's diary

Physically challenged

Minister for Disabled People Alistair Burt was in Atlanta to cheer on the British Paralympic squad. Later he wrote: "It is not the disabilities that make them special; it is that they are damned good at what they do."

The ratio of employed to those unable to work among the squad was 6:1, he said, and he challenged the public to recognise the wider abilities of other disabled people. Trouble is, most disabled people are out of work (see page 6 for latest report). Maybe it takes an athlete to leap the barriers.

Not 'normal'

Seventy pensioners at a retirement home in Aberdare



took exception to the Transport Department's sign for elderly people and helped design their own. They show elderly people skateboarding, doing a wheelie, unicycling with a zimmer and bouncing on a pogostick. Leaping barriers?

Slow lane

Daily Express crossword clue: "Handicapped (7)" Answer? "Spastic".

A motley crew member

Disabled ex-soldier Paul Burns is about to sail round the world. Rod Hermeston meets the voyager who loves a challenge.

I scramble over ropes and rigging, and clamber down the awkward steps into a cramped cabin, admiring the easy movements of my guide who swings in without using the steps.

A navigating room, toilets, showers, berths, and a galley are all on the tour – compact, functional, neat and clean.

My guide Paul Burns, 35, a former paratrooper and Red Devil, is among the 14 members of the all-disabled crew of the Time & Tide boat.

He and the rest of the crew will set sail in the 67-foot yacht in the 30,000-mile BT Global Challenge, setting off on 29 September.

The race will take them round the world on a ten-month voyage, stopping off at places such as Rio de Janeiro, Sydney and Cape Town.

Paul lost a leg during the Warren point bombing in Northern Ireland, when he was stationed there as an 18-year-old.

He is married with three children and began sailing in 1986 with the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA).

"I'm a very active person. My disability restricts what I can do, but on a yacht you can do a lot, achieve a lot and have a lot of fun without having to move around too much," he says.

Nevertheless his decision to sail round the world was fairly unexpected. Until then he had mainly concentrated on Cowes week or cross channel sailing.

"My wife Sheila was horrified at first. I went out to a boat show one day and came home to announce out of the blue that I had been offered a place on a round the world yacht race. I suppose it is selfish, but I don't want to live the rest of my life regretting that I didn't do it."

It costs each crew member £18,000 to take part in the race, and Paul is getting money from various sources, including half the amount from Stannah Stairlifts and £1,000 from former Prime Minister Lady Thatcher.

He is also raffling his motorbike.



All hands on deck: Paul Burns aboard the yacht Time & Tide

HELEN GREGORY

The team has been working on the yacht since April and is competing on an equal footing with the 13 other able-bodied crews.

The Time & Tide crew has a variety of disabilities. Captain James Hatfield has had eight major open heart operations. The disabilities of other crew

members include visual impairment, deafness and severe asthma. There are also amputees and a survivor of cancer.

Paul admits there will be tough challenges to face, but says he is unafraid.

"The toughest part of the race will vary for different members

of the crew according to their disabilities. But the southern oceans should be the worst.

"They will be rough and freezing. My foot gives me constant pain, and my leg is very slow healing so I don't want to get any cuts. I know it will be difficult, but I'm not worried at all."

James Hatfield set up the Time & Tide trust which owns the boat. It aims to show what disabled people can do and inspire others.

'I'm bloody lucky. I survived but 18 of my colleagues and friends didn't'

"The crew were eager for it to be all disabled. We did not want to be carried. I think we can take the rest of the crews on as we have some very experienced sailors aboard," Paul says.

"We all have our abilities. People get type-cast too easily. What we are doing will open the eyes of the general public. But I don't really care about that. We want to take on the challenge of sailing round the world and to motivate other disabled people and let them know that they can do this."

Paul has been pushing himself ever since the explosion which disabled him. Since the two

years he spent in military hospitals and rehabilitation centres he has always tried to stay positive.

"The army was the only life I knew and it would have been counter productive to leave after the accident. The regiment looks after members who are injured."

It took persuasion to get the regiment to allow him to parachute. But he eventually jumped in displays with the Red Devils. He has made 700 jumps since he lost his leg.

A sense of adventure, a thirst for the adrenalin buzz, and a fairly relaxed attitude to danger all drive Paul.

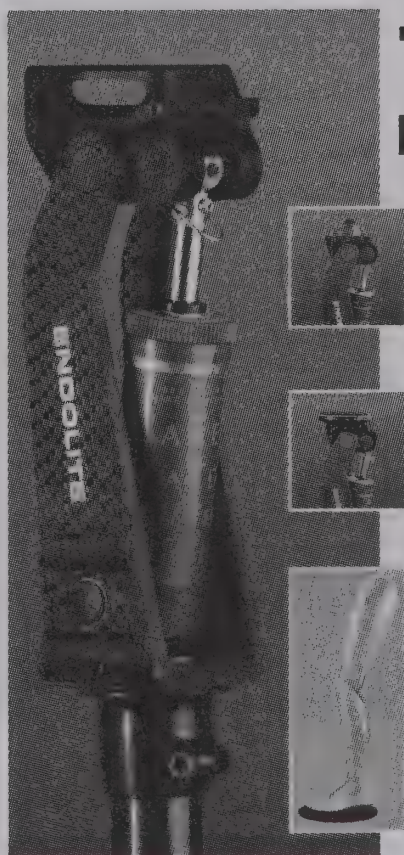
There have been occasions when his leg fell off during a jump, and he jokes about crash landings on his backside to avoid awkward touchdowns on his leg.

He is now medically retired because of the pain in his damaged foot, a constant problem for him which will be tested in the race.

But Paul won't give up easily. "I've never allowed myself to feel bitter because I'm bloody lucky.

"I survived, but 18 of my colleagues and friends didn't. I have to make the most of my life because of that."

Time & Tide, tel: (01489) 788897



The 160 Hi-Activity prosthesis For strength and durability

The Endolite Hi-Activity is a tough, long life, low maintenance lower limb with a resilient demountable discontinuous cosmesis. The 160 geometry reduces distal weight, has a stiffer assembly and is ideal for the most demanding of users.

Two modules, each consisting of chassis knee ball and cradle, provide three socket attachment options.

Module 1 - Mono-bloc chassis giving Endolite's normal full alignment facility.

Module 2 - New four-bolt chassis for pyramid adaptors or a short knee adaptor. Easily fitted

to the four-bolt chassis, allowing rotation and angular alignment.

The modules interface with standard Endolite builds or Flex-Foot set-ups.

■ CaTech cylinder gives widest range of flexion, extension and stance phase resistance

■ Impressive minimum build height - knee centre to end of cradle is only 193mm

To experience Hi-Activity contact the Blatchford Sales Department on 01256 465771.

Chas. A. Blatchford & Sons Ltd

Lister Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG22 4AH United Kingdom
Telephone: 01256 465 771 Facsimile: 01256 479 705

ENDOILITE

Drive away a brand new Citroën

Standard features

- Sunroof
- Stereo Radio Cassette
- Metallic Paint
- Tinted Windows

AX DIMENSION

NO

INITIAL RENTAL



CARS SHOWN: AX DIMENSION, ON THE ROAD PRICE £ 7,007. ZX ELATION 'S', ON THE ROAD PRICE £ 10,892. ON THE ROAD PRICE INCLUDES VAT, NUMBER PLATES, DELIVERY AND 6 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. NO INITIAL RENTAL AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING.



n with no initial rental, today!



Citroën are pleased to announce that we're back on the Motability scheme with full supplier status.

To celebrate, we're offering you the chance to drive away a brand new Citroën AX or ZX special edition model for no initial rental.

Take the AX Dimension for example. Striking to look at, economical to run, great to drive and packed with special features. Sunroof, tinted windows, stereo radio cassette and the luxury feel of Etna velour upholstery are complemented by six stunning metallic or pearlescent colours.

Or, choose the ZX Elation 'S' 1.4i. A family car with 40 cu.ft of practical loadspace, and with a host of special features designed to keep family life harmonious; such as power steering, electric tilt/slide sunroof and central locking. Meanwhile, a driver's airbag, front seat belt pretensioners and keypad immobiliser put the accent on safety and security.

For more details of these two special editions, or any other product in the Citroën range, call Citroën Fleet Connect today on **0345 940940**.

Standard features

- Electric Sunroof
- Power Steering
- Central Locking
- Driver's Airbag

ZX ELATION 'S'

NO

INITIAL RENTAL

ING TO PRESS. PLEASE CHECK WITH CITROËN FLEET CONNECT ON 0345 940 940 OR YOUR LOCAL CITROËN DEALER FOR PRODUCT AND OFFER AVAILABILITY

CITROËN MOTABILITY
NOTHING MOVES YOU LIKE A CITROËN

What did the 50th Edinburgh Festival Fringe have to offer?

Dance

Love The Earth With Hiroshima

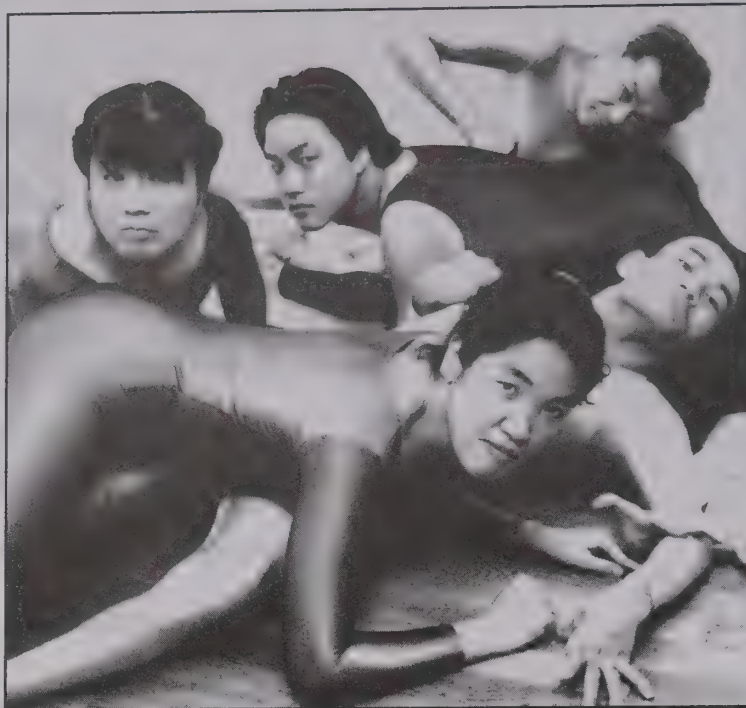
This show, by the Cosmic Dance Company of Japan, sounded like a hip number from the sixties. When I read in the programme notes that "Someday, all of us will warp to the integral world..." I could feel grooviness ooze into me.

The premise of the dance was this: when the atom bomb exploded above Hiroshima, one tree survived at the point of impact. Through the dancing, we witnessed the devastation of the land and people. But life emerged anew from the horror.

This is where disabled people joined the dance. Colourful, richly diverse humanity wove its pattern of human existence upon the formerly devastated stage. All human life was there. Disabled people were simply part of the picture.

The Cosmic Dance Company offer the enduring messages of "love, wisdom and hope". To my Eurocentric, postmodern and cynical sensibilities the message was too sweet.

But what do I know? The Grand Father of Wisdom was played by Mr Seiji Kawano. When he was 15 he stood two miles from the epicentre of the explosion. He was blinded by the bomb. His two brothers



Thought provoking: The Taihen Dance Company

TARUMI AKIRA

and mother were killed. Fifty years later, if he wants to stand in a church in Edinburgh, swaying to the Deep Forest soundtrack to bring the message that "while we are here we should dance with hope", who am I to criticise?

Bloom

Taihen is a corruption of a Japanese word for "queer" which can also mean metamorphosis. The Japanese dance company called Taihen tends towards the latter interpretation.

Metamorphosis? You would need to be Kafka's man who turned into a fly to reach the height of Taihen's performance of *Bloom*. I'm no bluebottle, so four Japanese lads hauled me up 40 steps to reach the

auditorium. The message was undermined by the mountain you had to climb to get there.

Most of the company are disabled. *Bloom* offered images which try to represent personal realities honestly and, through dance, to provoke thought about what it means to be an individual and a disabled person.

If the execution was less than professional and the message just a bit naive, that puts Taihen on the same footing as dozens of companies at Edinburgh. Nothing excuses their choice of venue though.

Dougie Herd

Theatre

Brimstone and Treacle

Dennis Potter was a great writer. But even talented people have off days. *Brimstone and Treacle* (RSAMD Theatre Group) is the product of a great imagination losing sight of its purpose.

The play was banned from tv, because of the rape of a profoundly disabled woman. "Tut, tut, tut," muttered Outraged of Tunbridge Wells, "such offensiveness must be kept from our screens."

But offensiveness is not the problem. The play is just poorly written. Disability is presented as tragic loss. Disabled person as victim is there too. Rape as rehabilitation is offered as a curious twist on the "road to recovery" myth. But that may tell us more about Potter's difficulty with female characters than his misrepresentation of disability.

Impairment was portrayed using the *My Left Foot* acting school of impersonating disabled people. But almost any disabled person could have just been themselves and given us greater insight into life's rich tapestry.

Dougie Herd

Theatre

The Gift

This play, written by Nicola Baldwin and performed by Y Touring Company, was well-intentioned. I wanted it to work because the people involved seemed to be genuine. But good intentions are insufficient unless you want to pave the road to Hell.

The play debates the genetic sciences forecast for the 21st century. Genetic selection in general and the dilemmas of Freiderich's Ataxia in particular are its focus. As the new millennium approaches and scientists map the human genome, the debate is important.

The Gift didn't practice what it preached. One message was that to be a disabled person is not necessarily to be less than whole. Just as the drama hinted

at the possibility that disabled people can realise a wholly satisfying potential, the character with Ataxia was drawn back into portraying unrelenting tragedy and loss.

Sorry, Y Touring: disability just is not that bad: me and loads of disabled people live lives that are both better and worse than any stereotype.

After the play, the company staged a debate on issues surrounding genetic selection. It will surprise few people that the overwhelming majority voted against "selecting out" short boys from the gene pool, but the same proportion voted to permit selection out of genetic "disorders".

Despite laudable attempts by the playwright and the company, there was no authentic voice of disabled people apparent in the work. This was its missing link and its principal weakness.

Dougie Herd

Tour details, tel: 0171-272 5755

Theatre

Mother Hicks and Agnes of God

Sign language's structure is different in every country just like spoken languages. The Americans should have known better than to state that two out of their ten student shows with a deaf aspect were "fully accessible to deaf and hearing audiences" when they were performed in American Sign Language (ASL).

The First Colonial High School from Virginia Beach, performed *Mother Hicks*. Susan Zeder's powerful account of an abandoned girl in a town impaired by the Great Depression is told by a deaf boy, Tuc, who lives with the caring Mother Hicks. The interpreter did her best but even her synopsis of the story was relayed in ASL, which only added to the frustration.

Agnes of God, performed by the Theodore Roosevelt High School from Iowa, offered a better attempt. "Two simultaneous performances, one in English, one in ASL, make this powerful drama even more exceptional". It certainly did because I could not follow it either way!

The signing cast, with one deaf actress and two hearing actresses, mirrored the play performed by the English speaking cast. The play took place in a convent where a young nun secretly gives birth and is then accused of murdering the infant. Who is the father? How did she get

access to him? Who really killed the baby and why?

A court appointed psychiatrist probes to find the truth while a protective Reverend Mother blocks all attempts to solve the mystery. Alas! The answers remain unknown to me. But, it was a brilliant concept, the best attempt I have seen so far to making theatre fully accessible to deaf and hearing audiences.

What We Want To Say To Juan José

Was such a concept going to be fulfilled by such a cast in the shape of Common Ground?

Formed in 1986, Common Ground Sign Theatre is Britain's first touring company of deaf and hearing performers. It is managed and directed by both deaf and hearing artists who all use sign language. It is not a theatre for deaf issues. The emphasis is on fusing dance, poetry, music and theatre to evolve a Sign-Dance-Theatre. They tour and hold workshops.

The Fringe show was only for an audience aged 15 plus. Even this was too low an age for *What We Want To Say To Juan José*, about two women who share a flat with a man. One hates his messiness while the other is passionately in love with him. "Sexy, funny and outrageous" claimed the leaflet. "Coarse, unfunny and a turn-off" was more appropriate. This show failed miserably to convince me that movement which debases the human body and calls it art can also be called entertainment.

Thelma Petty

DO YOU OR A MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY HAVE PROBLEMS WITH A SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR YOUR COUNCIL? ARE YOU GETTING THE EDUCATION, COMMUNITY CARE OR SERVICES YOU NEED?

David Ruebain is a solicitor specialising in Education, Community Care and Local Government Law for disabled people. We offer direct access for deaf people, through a lawyer fluent in British Sign Language.

We also specialise in accident claims, medical negligence, conveyancing, wills and criminal law.

Legal Aid work undertaken.

For free initial advice contact:

DAVID LEVENE & CO.
SOLICITORS
Ashley House
235-239 High Road
Wood Green
London
N22 4HF

Telephone: 0181-881 7777

Minicom: 0181-881 6764

Facsimile: 0181-889 6395



Exhibition

In 1987 film-maker, painter and poet Humphrey Jennings, along with anthropologist Tom Harrison and journalist Charles Madge, pioneered a project called *Mass Observation*, aiming to give working class people "a chance to speak for themselves, about themselves".

In 1995 the Northern Disability Arts Forum (NorDAF) in Nottingham took up the cudgels and at last disabled people were given a chance to provide images representing their everyday lives.

On 15 March last year, around 250 people, some of whom had never taken a photograph before, were involved in a disabled people's *Mass Observation* project.

So with no pressure to produce great artworks or campaign photographs, all kinds of disabled people have been able to choose what they want to do and have used cameras as a means towards their own ends.

There are photographs of friends and family members, partners, children and home environments: the exhibition as a whole is a snapshot of a day, showing whatever its

Mass Observation



Self expression: one of the photographs from the exhibition

NORTHERN DISABILITY ARTS FORUM

participants have happened to be doing or thinking about. Happy moments and routine events are there alongside the things that make us angry, frustrated or sad.

The value of this exhibition is as a contemporary social document, so for me to warble on about quality and aesthetics and individual photographs would be utterly irrelevant!

Every day, slowly, there are moves towards improved access and rights. And in 25 years this work will be there to give information on how disabled people spent their lives.

Later this year, disabled people in the East Midlands region will be supplied with disposable cameras for another *Mass Observation* project. If you live in the area grab this chance to be part of a further exhibition and archive.

Chris Ledger

For further information about the exhibition or getting one of the cameras, contact NorDAF on tel: 0191-222 0708, minicom: 0191-261 2238.

Mass Observation is at the Deragate in Northampton from 22 October-2 November.

Television

Chris Davies



Beginning 17 August for ten days, BBC2 had a regular 40 minute update on the Paralympics. After they'd finished, *Points of View* on BBC1 reported that many people had complained that there was still not enough coverage compared with the Olympics.

Well, I agree. The quality was excellent yet there should have been more. But, you cannot fault the BBC too much, because they gave the event more credit than the Americans. The public did not turn out in droves. This is the main tragedy. If the public does not show up, even when the opening of the games has Liza Minelli, Aretha Franklin and Christopher Reeve, what can you do? Let's hope the Australians do better in 2000.

Regular readers of this column will know that Esther Rantzen does not get much credit here. But, when I watched *The Rantzen Report*, "Speaking up for Geoffrey" (19 August, BBC1), I thought this was about to change.

At first sight, the programme was about the need for advocates for disabled people in institutional care who cannot speak for themselves.

My experience of institutional living is limited, but I have enough to know that often such regimes work on the basis of compliance – the staff know best, and there is no room for debate. Against such a background, it is little wonder that abuse often happens. So all credit must be paid to any programme that publicises such circumstances.

But a second viewing made me realise that it wasn't practising what it preached.

The studio audience was not brimming with disabled people speaking up for themselves, did not include representatives from our community who live independently, and did not have those of us who have survived institutional care to go on to something better.

Yes, it did indirectly and for a small part of the programme quote disabled people and show them putting advocacy schemes into practice. But, really, this was a report on parents' concern about abuse in institutions, and although this is, of course, a valid subject, it is not the same as a programme advocating advocacy, which after all is a relevant practice in many contexts.

Exhibition

Imagined Communities

This is an exhibition of works by various artists, all of whom question our assumptions about "community" and the artist's place within it. Some of the contributions have a disability angle.

Sophie Calle plays on our curiosity about intimate details of other's lives, and the discomfort we feel indulging in voyeurism.

One exhibit is from a series she made while working "under cover" as a hotel chambermaid. She photographed people's

rooms and possessions, and presents notes of what she found.

Another series, of which there is one example, was based on interviews with people blind since birth who were asked to describe their image of beauty.

She presents a photographic portrait, a description and photographs which respond to it. The effect is strange. I have seen similar things which purport to be a collaboration with their subject, and found them disturbingly patronising. Yet here the artist deliberately makes us feel uncomfortable. It is arguably at the expense of her subject, but so is all her work.

Yinka Shonibare grew up disabled in London and Lagos, and much of his work attacks simplistic views of cultural

heritage. He uses colourful waxprint material generally associated with West Africa, but which was originally brought by the Dutch from Indonesia and copied by the English to be sold there.

Here he has five 18th Century whalebone corsets in this fabric. The result is a set of incongruous garments, which amuse and provoke questions about Britain's colonial past.

In all, the show is a reminder of the complexity of different "communities" and of how thoroughly interwoven they are.

Adam Reynolds

At the Royal Festival Hall until 27 October and the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow 6 December-16 February 1997.

Video top five

1. **HEAT** (Warner): Pacino and de Niro raise the temperature.
2. **TRAINSPOTTING** (Polygram): Heroin addiction, dead babies and grievous bodily harm. Irvine Welsh's grim vision of Edinburgh's youth.
3. **JUMANJI** (Columbia Tristar): A board game comes alive in this Robin Williams fantasy.
4. **SEVEN** (EV): Blond bomb-shell Brad Pitt faces deadly sins.
5. **BABE** (CIC): A talking pig brings home the bacon.

Chart supplied by MIRB

Look out for

A new series of *See Hear* begins on 29 September on BBC1 at 10.15am with more current affairs than before. Highlights of the rest include a review of the Edinburgh fringe by disabled actor David Bower, best known as Hugh Grant's brother in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

The first ever **Arts in Mental Health forum**, organised by East Midlands Shape, at Stanford Hall near Loughborough on 18-20 October. There will

be workshops, seminars, exhibitions and entertainment. For more details, tel: 0115-924 1700, minicom: 0115-958 7331.

A series of documentaries under the banner *Over the Edge* started in September on Tuesdays at 11.15pm on BBC2. Highlights include disabled poet and rapper Mat Fraser's idea of a perfect day, and a programme about the Outsiders' Club.

Heart and Soul Music Theatre is holding a festival 29 October-9 November at The Albany Theatre in Deptford. For more information, tel: 0181-692 4446.



For children with individual needs.



This very popular Kiwi design is now an integral part of hundreds of families all over New Zealand. The SuperBug enables children to go anywhere from bush tracks, to the beach and from shopping expeditions to accompanying parents over the farm. It is very strong yet only weighs 6.6kg and is incredibly manoeuvrable. It will go so many places where a wheelchair or conventional pushchair will not cope.

For further information call
0181-747 9439

Mountain Buggy (UK) Ltd, PO Box 3068, Chiswick, London W4 2ZP. Tel and Fax: 0181-747 9439

Bank on the Midlands

Its baltis are famous, but Birmingham has a lot more than curry to offer the disabled visitor, as Jane Dunford finds out

Birmingham, the UK's second largest city, is a hive of activity. It is a vibrant centre for the arts, plays host to major sporting and entertainment events, and is home to three universities.

But what is Birmingham like for disabled visitors?

The official guide *Night and Day* offers sketchy information about disabled facilities.

And *Accessible Places*, a guide produced by the voluntary group Birmingham Charter, is helpful, but not comprehensive.

Access is good in most of the new venues, but overall consideration for disabled people is patchy and transport is not brilliant if you are a wheelchair user.

However, Birmingham is an exciting city and well worth a visit. There is plenty to do, and it is manageable, even if you do have to make that extra effort.

Getting there

There are four train stations in Birmingham, and all can be contacted on 0121-653 4444.

The International Station near the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) is fully accessible.

National Express Coaches

runs to all major cities, and provision can be made for wheelchairs, tel: 0121-625 1122.

Plenty of buses serve the Birmingham area, and most are not adapted, but West Midlands Travel, tel: 0121-783 3621, has ordered 150 wheelchair accessible buses which will be on the road by the end of the year.

About 30 per cent of the city's taxis are accessible. BB Taxis are particularly good, tel: 0121-693 3333/233 3030.

Birmingham International Airport has good access, toilets, braille signs and good parking, tel: 0121-767 5511.

Entertainment

There is so much to see and do in Birmingham and most things are accessible.

Thousands of people flock to the city each year to exhibitions at the NEC in Bickenhill. This has good access, a purpose-built area for wheelchair users, and braille signs, tel: 0121-780 4141.

The Symphony Hall, part of the International Convention Centre in Broad Street, is home to the city's orchestra and is hailed as one of the best



Birmingham's city centre has a number of accessible shopping streets

concert halls in the world.

There is wheelchair access and induction loop systems available on request, tel: 0121-200 2000.

The Hippodrome is the base for the Royal Ballet, tel: 0121-622 7486, and has good facilities for disabled people.

There are eight cinemas in Birmingham. The best for wheelchair users is MGM Cinemas in the Arcadian Centre, tel: 0121-622 3323.

The newly opened National Sea-Life Centre provides a 360

degree view of the undersea world. The centre is fully accessible, tel: 0121-633 4700.

There are plenty of sports centres in and around Birmingham and many have good access.

Of these, Cocks Moors Woods in Alcester Road South, has a sloped pool for easy access, with a wheelchair provided, tel: 0121-441 1996.

Stirchley Indoor Bowls has wheelchair access, braille and tactile symbols, and adapted toilets, tel: 0121-459 4116.

Eating out

Restaurants in Birmingham vary in accessibility.

Of the more wheelchair-friendly, for French food, **Pierre Victoire** in Colmore Row is worth a visit, tel: 0121-236 4646.

The **Chicago Exchange** in Broad Street offers good American grub, access and toilets, tel: 0121-633 4860.

Pizza Hut in New Street is fully accessible, tel: 0121-631 4855.

Accommodation

The **Ibis Hotel**, tel: 0121-622 6010, in Ladywell Road has three rooms which are accessible to wheelchair users.

The **Novotel** in Broad Street is welcoming and has rooms for wheelchair users, tel: 0121-643 2000. Another Novotel at the airport, tel: 0121-782 7000, has similar facilities.

Shopping

There are six shopping centres dotted around the heart of Birmingham, offering all the high street names and many specialist shops.

The modern **Arcadian Centre** in Hurst Street, the **Pallasades** in New Street and the **Pavilions** in the High Street are fairly easy to get into, but access to individual shops varies.

Negotiating your way around the **Bull Ring Markets** could be more tricky. Although much of the centre is pedestrianised, it is on a hill and there are still kerbs to tackle.

For everything under one roof, try the **Merry Hill** shopping centre, in Dudley. This is completely accessible and has good parking facilities.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ALDERSLEY EXCEL RANGE



EXCEL TREKKA

Juniors and the smaller adult up to 10 stones

First of its kind

Up to 50 stone carrying capacity

Tested by Blackpool Wheelchair Evaluation Centre

Wide wheels for stability

Ideal trekker

Suspension for comfort

Manoeuvrable and compact

Customized to suit client

Carer or user control

Versatile indoor and outdoor

EXCEL SUPREME

Notability

Aldersley Battery Chairs Limited
24-26 Old Meeting Road, Coseley,
West Midlands WV14 8HB
Tel: 0121 520 6942
Fax: 0121 522 4833

Commission agents required NE NW SE SW



Roll-aid converts your manual wheelchair into a power chair

Attached and removed in seconds and will fit 95% of chairs in use.

Highly manoeuvrable indoors and outdoors.

0-5mph variable speed control with easily operated central tiller for steering and forward and reverse on central rocker switch.

20 mile range.

Complete with gel cell batteries and charger unit.

Fraction of the cost of power chairs with extremely low maintenance costs.

Fits in car boot or back seat.

Delivered to your door.

Call for a free brochure.

0181 668 1908

0113 261 1268

Commission agents required NE NW SE SW



Parents doing it for themselves

A group of parents who were fed up with the lack of available support and practical advice, have launched a support group and information service.

SCAMPS (Special Children & Maas 'N' Paas), tel: 0121-459 9292, based in King's Norton, aims to work with professionals to provide advice on all issues relating to children with special needs.

"When Becky, who has cerebral palsy, was born I felt immensely isolated, but there

were no groups around," says Cheryl Henvey, secretary of SCAMPS.

"We are parents who know what others are going through."

Funding now has to be found to secure the group's future.

"We want to co-ordinate all the services so we can offer all round advice or point people in the right direction," says chairwoman Mary Green.

"We hope to set up regular meetings so parents don't feel they are on their own."

Group's 50th is cause for celebration

The MSA, for midland people with cerebral palsy, is one of the oldest established charities in Birmingham and celebrates its 50th anniversary next year.

At the resource centre in Harborne, which is attended by dozens of people with cerebral palsy every day, personal planning programmes are used to set individual goals.

"Each person is assessed and given a goal to work towards, whether it be learning to use a computer and finding employment, learning independent living skills or just making a cup of tea," says centre administrator Evelyn Hurd.

Staff at the Scope-affiliated centre are busy teaching information technology, English, art, music and maths. Horse riding and swimming are regular activities and a physiotherapist and speech therapist visit frequently.

Tel: 0121-427 3182/2458

Resources make life a lot easier

Whether you live in Birmingham or are just visiting, the Disability Resource Centre, tel: 0121 789-7365, can provide much of the information you might need.

With data on thousands of groups and activities, the centre in Bierton Road, which is mainly run by disabled people, offers a comprehensive service.

"There is so much happening for disabled people in this area but people just don't know about it," says David Heap, information officer, who is profoundly deaf.

"There's angling, fly-fishing, riding, sports of all kinds and every kind of group. We can give advice on housing, benefits, aids and equipment."

For advice on equipment, Birmingham's Disabled Living Centre is worth a visit.



Good advice: David Heap

Occupational therapists offer impartial information and demonstrations at the council-run centre. A wide range of equipment from wheelchairs to bathroom aids is on display and can be tested. Items are not for sale but there are up-to-date lists of local or national suppliers.

The centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-4.15pm, tel: 0121-643 0908.

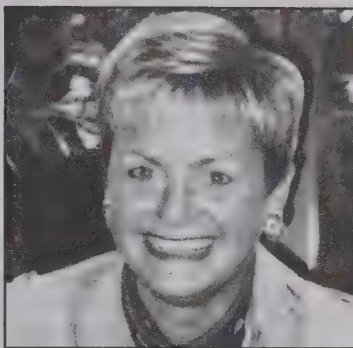
City's model citizens

Fancy strutting your stuff down a catwalk or appearing in glossy magazines? Birmingham is the place to be if you are a disabled person and want to try your hand at modelling.

The Louise Dyson Agency, tel: 0121-554 7878, is rare in the UK because it takes disabled models onto its books.

It joined forces with Sunrise Medical and DN two years ago to organise the first national modelling contest.

"Modelling is a way to earn extra cash and have some fun,"



Star material: Melanie Cooper

says Melanie Cooper, 38, who has arthritis.

"I've done all sorts of things

from the Rover Motability brochure to a German tv advertisement. More disabled people should get involved to show we're no different."

Another model on Louise's books, wheelchair user Tracy Scandlebury, 27, was "spotted" more than a year ago and has appeared on BBC tv modelling bridal and swimwear.

"There are many stereotypes to be broken," she says.

Louise Dyson says demand for disabled models is slowly increasing, and new recruits would be welcomed.

"We are trying to create more demand and make people see that disabled models can do the job."



Unconsulted: David Cobley and Katherine Walsh

A long way to go...

Although things are improving for disabled people in Birmingham there is still a long way to go, according to the Birmingham Disability Rights Group (BDRG).

"Large parts of the city have been refurbished but there are always areas where the council and private organisations trip up," says member Dave Cobley.

"Around Centenary Square by the canal there has been lots of rebuilding but in some places, such as Fletcher's Walk, you just cannot get from one part to the other if you're in a wheelchair," he adds.

The pressure group campaigns

for better rights and access, but fellow member Katherine Walsh says they are still not consulted on important decisions.

"There's often just token consideration given to people with disabilities."

"An international meeting on the subject was held at the Hyatt hotel and we weren't even told."

"The new Ronnie Scott's has disabled loos, but there's a step to get into the venue itself - people are trying but they still aren't getting it right."

Tel: 0121-789 9331

Sporting chance

Birmingham Disability Issues Forum, tel: 0121-789 7365, is hoping to run a sports day for disabled people next year.

Chairman Irene Wright said: "We would like to hold a major sports event although planning is in the early stages."

The
DANAID
Comfort
WHEELCHAIR

- Easy to operate
- Adjustable - no tools required.
- Simple, elegant design - choice of colours.
- Posture support.
- Pressure sore relieving design.
- Elevating footrests.

Optional equipment includes:

- Electric tilt & recline
- Headrests
- Table
- Pommels
- Harnesses
- Body & side supports
- Optional Five Year Guarantee.
- Competitively Priced.
- Power driven option available from September.

Phone 0115 911 0316
for brochure/information or write to:
Comfort Aids, 24/26 Glasshouse Street,
Nottingham, NG1 3LW.

Available Only From
COMFORT
AIDS
of Nottingham



Speak up: minicoms ease daily communication

Get the message

Dr Janet Larcher on communication aids for hearing impaired people

There has been a revolution in communication aids for people with hearing or communication disabilities.

Fax and e-mail are being increasingly widely used. Fax systems allow you to send any written document directly through the phone system.

An e-mail connection allows you to write at a computer and then send information, via a modem, down the phone line to be collected by another modem.

Mail can be collected when it's convenient, yet messages can go to and fro all day.

E-mail tends to be faster than a fax, so there are lower phone bills. A range of companies provide e-mail and Internet services with charges varying considerably, so shop around.

Other microtechnology aids for hearing impaired people fall into four categories: amplifying systems for speech and/or tv; systems which alert you to events such as a bell; adaptations to the phone system; and transcription services.

Text telephones are for people unable to hear (or speak) well enough to use a conventional telephone. Each has a built-in

keyboard allowing conversations to be typed, appearing on a small liquid crystal display.

Some textphones have acoustic cups into which the handset of the conventional phone is placed. Others can plug directly into the phone socket and double as a phone.

Portable textphones are available from Teletech International, tel: (01908) 270003, minicom: (01908) 270005; Sound Advantage – Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID), tel: (01733) 361199, minicom: (01733) 238020 and Gordon Morris Ltd, tel/minicom: (01458) 850396. Prices: £200-£300.

Typetalk can be used when communicating between a textphone and an ordinary phone. It is a national telephone relay service run by the RNID and funded by BT.

Calls are made via an operator who types a message which appears on the textphone and then repeats the written message to the other person. Textphone users can claim a 60 per cent rebate on BT and Typetalk bills, up to a maximum of £160 a year per line.

Various adaptations enable a person who is hearing impaired to use a conventional telephone: amplifiers if you do not wear a hearing aid and inductive couplers if you have a

hearing aid with a T setting.

Some standard phones have additional features. BT's Converse 200 (£34) and 300 (£60) have volume control, induction loop, indicator light for when the phone is ringing, variable volume ringer and a 20 number memory. The 300 is hand free and has an extra earpiece.

A small, portable amplifier that fits over the earpiece of most phones comes from Sound Advantage or PC Werth for £22. But you usually have to take it off after each call so it is only suitable if you need a portable amplifier. PC Werth, tel: 0181-675 5151.

Where a phone has no flashing light, a separate device may be attached. Phone Flash gives a bright flash – like a camera – and can be wall mounted. About £30 from Sarabec or Sound Advantage.

With the Mountcastle Silent Flashing Alert the house lights flash all over the house, for example, to alert you to the doorbell. £100 plus installation costs (by a qualified electrician).

The Gima visual signal system converts sound (for example a baby alarm) into flashing lights with visual transmitters and receivers which are plugged into the mains. Optional vibrating pad available. £100 from Sound Advantage and B&H Designs, tel: (01462) 893039, minicom: (01737) 243134.

Multi-use sound indicators can convert sound into either visual or tactile signals. Vibrating systems can be useful at night – the vibrating pad is placed under the edge of the pillow. From Connevens, tel: (01737) 247571, minicom: (01737) 243134; Hutchinson Paging, tel: (01992) 502000, Sound Advantage; Universal Aids, tel: 0161-480 9228, Vibrotech, tel/minicom: (01536) 200014.

There are also systems for door bells or alarm clocks which flash and/or vibrate. £20-£80. There is a wide range of amplifying and induction loops, with varied uses.

Before buying, check they allow you to hear what you wish and you can easily change the volume, tone and batteries.

Transcription equipment displays type text to people who are deaf or hearing impaired using phonetic keyboards, such as Palantype, or standard qwerty keyboards. Either can be bought or hired from the RNID.

Communication and Access to Computer Technology, £14 from the Disability Information Trust, is a useful read.

LOOP INSTALLATION SERVICES

Hearing impaired – we can help

We operate a full survey and installation service which will be of special interest to those considering the new Disability Discrimination Act and how it effects them.

Our services cover the whole field of sound enhancement including induction loop systems, infra red, public address and surveillance equipment.

All work is carried out to the relevant BS governing audio frequency induction loop systems (AFILS). Equipment guarantee five years.

Call 01609 776636 for more details.

Units 1-4, Station Road, Brompton, Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 2RE.

EQUIPMENT FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, THE HOME & LEISURE



Do you or a friend have a problem being alerted to sounds around the house or office?

Do you know someone who has difficulty following conversations or meetings?



Do you know someone who wants the television at a louder volume than you do?



Do you want to help a hearing aid work to the best of its ability?



Tell us which of these is your situation, and let us send you our 68-page FREE catalogue, full of ideas to cope with all types of hearing problems large and small! Please quote ref: DN 10/96.

Solutions to improve your quality of life

CONNEVANS

54 Albert Road North, Reigate, Surrey RH2 9YR
Switchboard: 01 737 247571
Text: 01 737 243134 Fax: 01 737 223475



13-year-old Leann Shannon, USA, wrested three golds from Tanni Grey (above), but Grey won the 800m

‘They put the Great back into Britain’

122 medals came home. Pictures by Graham Bool Photography.



Simon Munn (above) of Britain's brilliant basketball team, which won a silver against Australia. Swimmer Tracy Wiscombe from Fife (below, left) took golds in the 50m and 100m freestyle, while Noel Thatcher (below right) secured two golds, knocking 50 seconds off the 10,000m world record despite a shin injury



Scots sprinter Steve Payton (above) won three golds, while Nigel Bourne (below) set new records in the 200m T20 and long jump



The Ramp Range

NEW INNOVATIVE SAFETY FEATURES

A range of styles and lengths for portable and semi-permanent ramps

- Exceptional quality & value
- Unparalleled robustness & rigidity
- A wide and fully comprehensive range
- Built up sides and gridded safety treads
- Locks on telescopic models
- Recess for luminous safety tape
- Rubber under pads to prevent slippage
- Pre-drilled fixing holes for semi-permanent use

Smith+Nephew
Leadership in Worldwide Healthcare

For more information please send the coupon opposite to the address below

Smith & Nephew Homcraft Ltd
Sidings Road, Lowmoor Road Estate,
Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Notts. NG17 7JZ

Please send me further information about The Ramp Range.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

SCOOTER RAMP
FOLDING RAMP
TELESCOPIC RAMP

WY DN 098

Great athletes – pity about the Atlanta foul ups

Gareth A Davies 'wraps up' a great occasion

The 10th Paralympic Games in Atlanta in August will be remembered as momentous on several counts.

Great Britain finished fourth in the medal table with 39 gold, 42 silver and 41 bronze medals, behind the United States, Australia and Germany.

Only seven golds separated the first five nations. It demonstrated that more countries are putting more resources into disability sports, which can only increase standards. Athletes are already looking forward to Sydney in 2000.

Competitively speaking, it was the most successful Paralympic Games ever. More than 200 world and Paralympic records tumbled during the ten days, more than ten times as many as the number broken at the Olympics.

A faster track at the Centennial Stadium and a deeper pool helped, yet the records being smashed like old vinyl came out of better training and more coaches

from able-bodied sport, more competitors worldwide, plus technological advances in wheelchairs and carbon-fibre prosthetic limbs.

Full financial support for the Olympics and Paralympics is still in great demand, and if the Government upholds its pledge, we are likely to see improved facilities and funding.

Given limited resources, however, Great Britain's athletes had a more than creditable campaign. And expectations, for the first time after finishing third in the medal table in Barcelona in 1992, were high.

Tony Sainsbury, British Paralympic Association *chef de mission*, said: "I am delighted because after Barcelona I said we would need a wider spread of medals if we were going to maintain and develop our position as one of the top nations in the world. The competition here has been phenomenal and I believe we have maintained our position. "This is the best team I have

ever worked with. I can only see great prospects for us in the future if the promises which are being made by all sorts of agencies are fulfilled over the next three or four years."

There were many highlights for the British team: partially-sighted runner Noel Thatcher's 5,000m and 10,000m successes on the track, stripping 50 seconds off the world record in the 10,000m despite a stress fracture to the shin; Scotsman Steve Payton recording three gold medals in sprints, one after enduring a night of being forced to give ten urine samples over 12 hours; Jo Jackson's three gold medals in the equestrian events; the performances of the swimming

president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), told the International Paralympic Committee: "We are ready to increase help to increase co-operation with your movement."

Since Sydney won its bid, an IOC mandate has been decreed that all future Games, both Paralympic and Olympic, should have one organising committee.

Cracks in organisation

The opening and closing ceremonies were stage managed in a way only the Americans can do. Christopher Reeve, formerly Superman, was Master of Ceremonies for the opening, with its parade of over 3,000 athletes. "To be surrounded by

when we arrived. It looked like a load of people had been having a serious party. All the appliances had gone. This is my third Games and it's the worst I've been to."

ACOG was 48 hours behind schedule in leaving the village, so little or no cleaning was done.

Then there were late buses, lost luggage and queues for food. On Great Britain's arrival, for example, after a nine hour bus ride from the acclimatisation camp in Pensacola, Florida, there was a two hour queue for a meal, with hundreds of hungry athletes waiting patiently in line.

APOC later remedied the problems by serving take-away, boxed, cold meals, and kept the kitchen open 24 hours a day.

Other burning questions

As competition becomes fiercer, disability classification will have to be addressed.

Aimee Mullins, a double amputee long jumper from the United States, registered her disapproval that she was competing with two prosthetic legs against athletes who were wrist amputees. "I don't understand how it can be seen as equal." There were countless cases like this.

Attendance was far short of Barcelona, where 1.5 million spectators had free admission. Tickets either sold or given to sponsors reached 525,000 in Atlanta, the first Paralympic Games to charge admission.

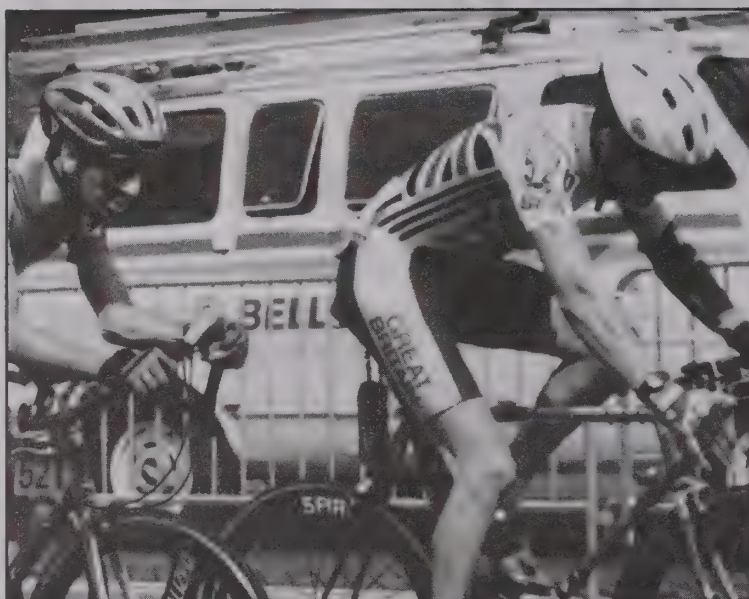
Sydney organisers are now reconsidering their decision to charge. "We may find ourselves charging for just finals and allow free admission for preliminary events," said Lois Appleby, chief executive officer for Sydney.

Bernard Atha, president of the International Sports Association for People with Mental Handicap, said that 56 competitors with learning difficulties, admitted for the first time as medal contenders, had been snubbed by Paralympic Games officials and organisers. "APOC deliberately omitted all reference to the inclusion of mental handicap," he said, explaining that one athlete had turned to him during the opening ceremony and asked: "What's wrong? Don't they like us?"

APOC said it was an accidental omission but Atha did not believe them. It was only under threat of the Americans with Disabilities Act that they conceded 56 places out of 3,500, he said.

Four of Britain's gold medals were won by athletes with learning disabilities. Tracy Wiscombe and Nigel Bourne won two each. The political battle, it seems, is set to continue.

Gareth A Davies is the Daily Telegraph's disability sports correspondent.



So near: Tom Evans in the lead, before a collision scuppered his hopes

team as a whole at the Aquatic Centre and the stoicism shown by those who fell foul of injuries.

The British Paralympic squad put the "Great" back into Britain.

Conflict among organisers

Increased coverage, more visual contact for the public at large through television and unprecedented performances by the athletes themselves broke new ground.

Conversely, organisational planning and management were far from ideal.

Problems surfaced from the two separate bids and evident rifts between the two organising committees – most crassly when it was revealed that the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) had planned to take down all 197 world flags before the Paralympics started. The Atlanta Paralympic Organising Committee (APOC) was given no options.

Ironically, Sydney 2000 stepped in and Ric Birch, its director of ceremonies, bought the flags, then donated them to the Paralympics at an estimated cost of £6,000.

At the Third Paralympic Congress on the first day of the competition, officials were already looking to Sydney and urging greater co-operation.

Juan Antonio Samaranch,

people who believe in you is one of life's most precious gifts," he told a crowd of almost 65,000.

Reeve, paralysed in a riding accident last year, introduced video snippets of Sir Ludwig Guttman, founder of the Paralympic Games, and of John Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jnr and Franklin Roosevelt.

It was American razzamatazz at its best. But as the athletes had earlier filed out around the 400m track in their national livery, one felt for the countries beginning with A, B, or C who had sat on the field in rows almost two hours before the video commenced.

The Americans put the icing on the cake. But the ingredients were to prove less than well-baked, as organisation misdemeanours surfaced.

Olympic village 'filthy'

First, there was the village formerly used by the Olympic athletes. British athletes were angered by the accommodation and lack of facilities.

One described his room as "a disgusting, filthy mess", while another was greeted with vomit on the carpet.

Swimmer Chris Holmes, who won three gold medals, and at 25 is a veteran of three Games, complained of soiled bedding.

Marc Woods said: "There were no pillows or blankets



Drive away a brand new Citroën with NO initial rental, today!



Citroën are pleased to announce that we're back on the Motability scheme with full supplier status.
To celebrate, we're offering you the chance to drive away a brand new Citroën AX or ZX special edition model with NO initial rental to pay.



NOTHING MOVES YOU LIKE A CITROËN

CITROËN CITY

100 Whitechapel Road, London E1
0171 377 5555

Your stars

By *DN's*
astrologer
Marion
Stanton



LIBRA (24 Sept-23 Oct)
After problems clearing your mind, you could start to sharpen your wits. Smooth talking may help you out of a tight spot and even lead to a little romance.

SCORPIO (24 Oct-22 Nov)
The period of respite in the early part of October could be a calm before the storm. Don't make hasty decisions or you might find yourself repenting.

SAGITTARIUS (23 Nov-21 Dec)
You have been feeling an urge to make big changes for some months but you need time to reflect before you make any life-changing decisions.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec-20 Jan)
A certain generosity of spirit is in full flow for Capricorns. This could surprise your family and their appreciation won't do any harm in the long run. Give a little to those who need you.

AQUARIUS (21 Jan-19 Feb)
In the second half of the month you could find that you are more in tune with those closest to you. Don't make waves. Listen to friends and lovers and be patient.

PISCES (20 Feb-20 March)
Arguments are likely this month but you could turn them to constructive debate. Your ruling planet stops still on the 6th. Take this opportunity to think things through.

ARIES (21 March-20 April)
A very busy time when career seems to dominate. Opportunities are flying your way but try not to get too carried away and leave your loved ones behind.

TAURUS (21 April-21 May)
The full moon in your sign on the 26th could bring a long standing battle in the family to a head – led by you! Make sure you are not left picking the pieces up on your own.

GEMINI (22 May-22 June)
You might feel you can get away with sweet talking this month but you won't fool your loved ones, especially as you are more than usually prone to fits of temper.

CANCER (23 June-23 July)
Inspired ideas could lead you to the ladder of success with one idea that has been on the bubble for some time. You can afford to strike now. The iron is hot!

LEO (24 July-23 August)
You are at the peak of your energy in October. You may feel that everything is achievable. It could be, but don't wear yourself out.

VIRGO (24 August-23 Sept)
Virgos with an eye on romance could be in luck in October. Make sure you don't burn your fingers in your enthusiasm.

What no wheelchair hurdles?

Spike Breakwell
says disability sport
needs spicing up

When you think about it, the Paralympics is a bit of a weird idea these days. A bit like selling a kettle that doesn't work to people who don't like hot drinks. In 1960, when the first one was held in Rome, it was revolutionary. But now – with this idea that "...all us disabled

people are dead proud not to be able to walk/hear/see/ whatever" – it's absurd to pay tribute by emulating the fittest people on the planet. Don't get me wrong, I like the Olympics. (I endured David Coleman's three hour long interpretation of rednecks and trucks) – "and the black dove of oppression... moves across Georgia... until the sun... errr... and the moon" etc – and the same is true of the Paralympics.

But I can't watch events without thinking "...yeah, but the other guys do this better". Why doesn't the Paralympics have new events that ablies would be crap at like wheelchair hurdles (let's face it, people would watch it on the telly), or the 100m dash for incontinents. Also, the whole thing needs to be sexier. More drugs, scandal. I don't want to know how much lighter her wheelchair is – I want sleaze: are there any

skeletons in the cupboard? Has she been dope-tested yet? If we wanna have a real Paralympics, let's do it right. Drug busts, athletes sent home in disgrace, punch ups on the basketball court. I'd watch... be honest, so would you.

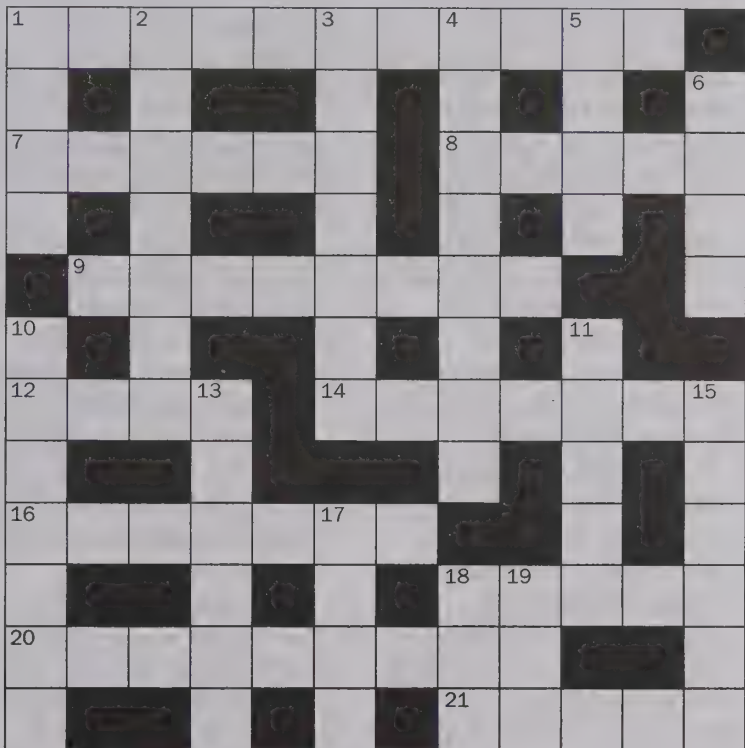
Spike Breakwell is a writer and comedian with a disability



DN's crossword

Answers on page 29

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- Her hard sole (anag)
- Sexual identity (6)
- Mean (5)
- Rice soup (anag)
- Oak, for example (4)
- Laughed (7)
- Type of coffee? (7)
- Range or scope (5)
- Mail price (anag)
- Ancient type of weapon (5)

DOWN

- Visual means of communication (4,8)
- English racecourse (7)
- Causing pain (7)
- See 1 down
- The Orient or the Soviet Union? (4)
- Ancient musical instrument (4)
- Stars and __ (7)
- Shine (5)
- Involve or bequeath (6)
- Person who owes money (6)
- (Bang in) a metal spike (4)
- Type of energy (3)
- Swiss or French mountain (3)

DN's X files

It's Halloween. Test your knowledge of the supernatural.

- What vegetable is hollowed out at this time of year?
- In what tv show is one of the stars nicknamed "Spooky"?
- In which country did "Trick or Treating" originate?
- In a recent film, what or who was "Caspar"?
- What is the *Fortean Times*?
- Who wrote *Carrie*?
- What town in Massachusetts is famous for its 17th century witch hunts?
- Who wrote *Dracula*?
- Where does *Dracula* live?
- Which Shakespeare play features three witches?

"Multi Position Postural Management Now With Pressure Relief"

Easy to adjust tilt chairs for all day postural management when sitting or lying in any position to sleep or play, now available.

Now with super comfy **LOWZONE** foam. Conforming to the body's natural contours, **LOWZONE** provides maximum comfort, firm support and pressure relief.

New "pressure monitoring" service available using computer based "QA Monitors".

For further information, please complete the coupon below.



Multi positions include

- SITTING
- PRONE
- SUPINE CROOK LYING
- KNEELING AT A TABLE
- RECLINED
- SIDE LYING
- POSTURAL DRAINAGE

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____
TELEPHONE _____

DIN/10/96

A DIVISION OF THE HELPING HAND COMPANY

SYMMETRIKIT LTD, UNIT 8, MARINER, LICHFIELD ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, TAMWORTH B79 7UL

SYMMETRI
Kit



Dear Ann

- love and loneliness
- bereavement
- personal problems
- advice and support

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

DN's telephone counsellor Lin Berwick can give disabled people and carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems. Disabled herself, Lin is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor and fully accredited Methodist local preacher. Talk to her on (01708) 477582 on Thursday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Mondays 6pm-10pm.



Sponsored by BT

Send your letters to: Ann Darnbrough, *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Question of sport

I have heard that there is a football association for people with learning difficulties. How do you contact them?

Martin, Berkshire

There is a National Football Association for People with Learning Disabilities and the person to speak to is Terry Harrison. He is setting up football groups around the country and is involved with the European Championships for people with learning disabilities.

My sex life is getting me down

I am writing in with a problem that I'm sure you have heard a hundred times.

I had several girlfriends until I became disabled through bypass surgery and left leg amputation seven years ago, but now girlfriends don't last long due to my impotence.

The trouble is that it only takes one failure and the next time the problem is compounded. My doctor is very sympathetic and suggested I try self-injection (into my penis to

achieve an erection) but that is just not for me.

Since I have no partner it is difficult to know how bad the problem is now, because I do get some days when I get up and all is working okay.

I believe the problem is psychological and if I could have myself hypnotised (and told I do not have the problem) or, sorry to put it like this, but if I could find someone who was like a cross between a prostitute and a sexual therapist who could take a hands-on approach, I am sure I could beat this problem.

Andrew, London

I am really sorry to hear your concerns about impotence. Believe me, lots of readers will share your fears. Most men seem to have this problem at some time in their lives. It is certainly true that it only needs to happen once for it to threaten self-confidence.

Since you sometimes have erections when you wake up in the morning, I am sure it is not a permanent situation.

As you have a helpful doctor, you could ask her if she could

recommend a local sex therapist. SPOD (Association to Aid the Sexual and Personal Relationships of People with a Disability), may be able to advise you. I also suggest you contact the Outsiders Club. Tuppy Owens, the founder, is a sexual therapist.

Why are women so fickle in love?

One aspect of sex and relationships which I don't think has been discussed at length is the differing attitudes of men and women to disability, particularly when seeking a partner.

Why is it that so many women – and reading through the personal column in *DN* confirms this – are only willing to consider an able-bodied man as a potential partner?

It seems that we disabled men get a very raw deal in the romance stakes.

Personally, I know disabled women who constantly complain about discrimination, yet when it comes to looking for love they are just as guilty of the same pre-conceived ideas about disability.

Perhaps it has a lot to do with media images that so many women find it difficult to picture their dashing knight in shining armour turning up in a wheelchair or with a limp!

Matthew, Chelmsford

Is it true that disabled women are usually intent on finding able-bodied partners? You may

be right, but lots of women tell me how men seem only to consider partners who match a particular ideal of prettiness and shape. While tv does concentrate on the handsome knight, it also seems to be besotted with a standard woman. In the end, I am sure it is personality that counts.

Wheelchair deal cost me dear

I wondered if through your column I could warn other people about the perils of buying an electric wheelchair.

I told the dealer how much I had to spend (about £2,000) and explained I needed a chair which was suitable for most terrains and would go at least 15 miles on one battery charge.

Too much to ask? It seemed not. He had just the thing – a second-hand wheelchair. When I used it, the batteries went flat after a couple of miles.

After pointing out that the chair's motor was getting hot, the shop owner agreed it was faulty, so I agreed to change the chair for a scooter, and after a lot of wrangling he agreed to do a straight swap.

However, I have since found out that the value of the scooter was a good deal less than I paid for the wheelchair.

I feel I have been cheated out of £400 on the deal.

Jill, Tamworth

You really do seem to have been given the runaround. In advis-

ing other people I would say that it was unwise to divulge how much you had to spend.

Another precaution is to buy from a dealer who is a member of the British Surgical Trades Association (BSTA), suppliers for special physical needs. Members of BSTA agree to comply with a code of conduct and you can complain to the association. BSTA will send a list of local dealers to enquirers.

Alternatively, the Sale of Goods Act 1979 gives you a legal right to your money back if the goods are not of satisfactory quality, fit for the purpose they were bought for, including any particular purpose mentioned by you to the seller, or as described by the seller, provided you complain within a reasonable time. This law also covers second-hand goods. (See *DN July* for your rights when shopping.)

You can ask for help and advice from your local trading standards consumer protection department (see phone book under the name of your local authority) and if all else fails you can make a claim in the small claims court.

A really handy booklet is available free from the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) called *A Buyers' Guide*. Also worth having is their up-to-date list of publications.

It tells you your legal rights, how to complain and where to get help. The OFT also has a Consumer Information Line: (0345) 224 4999 (local rates).

It is worth remembering that you can get independent advice at a Disabled Living Centre.



In a Crisis

Whatever you're going through, we'll go through it with you.

Please phone, visit or write

The Samaritans

0345 90 90 90

(Calls charged at local rate)



HOLIDAYS for DISABLED PEOPLE

Flights from London, Manchester, Birmingham & Glasgow to Amsterdam, Dublin, Paris, Florida, Majorca, Costa Almeria, Tenerife & Algarve, Gites and canal cruisers in France. Winter '96 holidays in Norway. Accessible Accommodation Guaranteed.

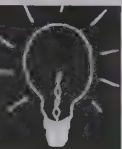
Please send Brochure to

Access Travel (Lancs) Ltd. 16 Haweswater Ave, Astley, Lancs M29 7BL. Tel: 01942 888844.



National Football Association for People with Learning Disabilities, Room 240, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Leicester LE1 9BG, tel: 0116-275 5551
SPOD, 186 Camden Road, London N7 0BJ, tel: 0171-607 8851
Outsiders Club, PO Box 4ZB, London W1A 4ZB
British Surgical Trades Association, 1 Webbs Court, Buckhurst Avenue, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1LZ, tel: (01732) 458868
Office of Fair Trading, PO Box 2, Central Way, Feltham, Middlesex TW14 0TG, tel: 0181-398 3405 for publications
Disabled Living Centres Council, 286 Camden Road, London N7 0BJ, tel: 0171-700 1707

Bright ideas



Keep up-to-date with the latest equipment in DN's new feature

Short people can enjoy a relaxing bath with the **Ashby Bath Shortener**, designed by **Gordon Ellis & Co.** The white plastic unit has four suckers which fix securely to the bottom of the bath at the foot end, so you can lie back without any fear of sliding down.

Also new from Gordon Ellis is the **Voyager folding commode chair** (below). This portable chair has an aluminium frame which folds out to support a plastic seat for over-the-toilet use. It packs almost flat and a carry bag is available. For details on both products, tel: (01332) 810504. Prices not yet available.



Putnams of Plympton have developed a "bosom friend" for women who receive treatment while lying on their stomachs. **The Ladyeze**, a foam-based support, is shaped to comfortably incorporate a woman's natural curves avoiding painful, squashed breasts. £59.99 from tel: (01752) 345678.



KiD has come up with a product which serves as a vital point of contact if your young child gets lost. The **KiD Child Identity Wristband** (left) is made of tear-resistant, waterproof paper on which you can write your details. It comes in bright, cheerful designs. £4.99 for a pack of 15. Order from Rel: TSS KiD, PO Box 112, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN7 4ZY, tel: (01342) 822670.

Finally, people who have difficulty with bathing can wash unaided with **Freshna Waves**, the first mobile 'human washing machine'. The unit soaks, soaps, massages, conditions and dries with warm air. A head-operated switch can be used to turn the washing cycle on and off. Everything you'd want, but it costs £4,000. Tel: (01444) 416316.

By Hayley Kerr

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Shareholder 7. Gender 8. Nasty 9. Precious 12. Tree 14. Giggled 16. Instant 18. Gamut 20. Empirical 21. Spear
DOWN: 1. Sign 2. Aintree 3. Hurting 4. Language 5. East 6. Lyre 10. Stripes 11. Gleam 13. Entail 15. Debtor 17. Nail 18. Gas 19. Alp

Info

Adapting Your Home is a new leaflet about how to make your house easier to live in as you get older. It is written and researched by the independent research charity, RICA, and published by Age Concern. For a free copy, send an sae to: RICA, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF.

What's on

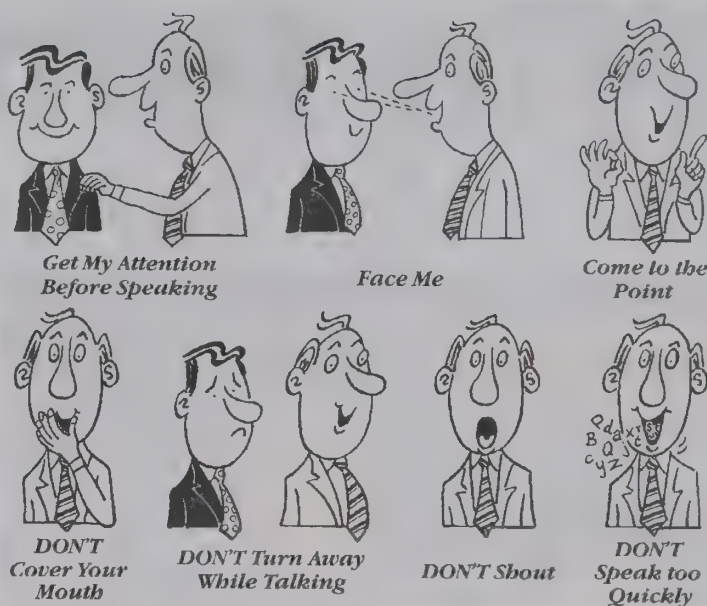
Opportunity and Choice: what does the Children Order offer children with disabilities? is a conference organised by Barnardo's on 1 October in Belfast. For further details, contact: Stacey Hartshorn, Barnardo's, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex IG6 1QG, tel: 0181-550 8822.

A meeting of the **Nystagmus Action Group** is at Stoke Damerel Community College in Plymouth on 12 October 1996. All are welcome. Details from: Carol Blackmore, 40 Hemerdon Heights, Plymouth PL7 2EY, tel: (01752) 336948.

Care for Yourself Week at the 39 Disabled Living Centres, begins on 14 October, with events, exhibitions and lots of products to see and try out. To find out the nearest one to you, contact: The Disabled Living Centres Council, Winchester House, 11 Cranmer Road, Kennington Park, London SW9 6EJ, tel/minicom: 0171-820 0567.

The Impossible Child - Is There An Answer? is the title of the Hyperactive Children's Support Group (HACSG) annual conference. It takes place on 16 October at St Mary Abbots Church Hall in Kensington, London. For more information, contact: HACSG, 71 Whyke Lane, Chichester PO19 2LD, tel: (01903) 725182.

Living As A Young Disabled Person In The Modern Family conference at the Aberfan Hotel, Port Talbot, on 26 October 1996. It will explore the ways young disabled people can get support. For more details, contact: Disability Wales, Llys Ifor, Crescent Road, Caerphilly CF83 1XL, tel/minicom: (01222) 887325.



An illustrated poster (above) explaining how to speak clearly to deaf people is available free from The South East Regional Association for the Deaf (SERAD). Send a large sae and the number of copies required to: SERAD, Whitethorns, Rannoch Road, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1RA.

DN's X FILES ANSWERS

1. Pumpkin 2. The X Files 3. The USA 4. A friendly ghost 5. The newspaper of the paranormal 6. Stephen King 7. Salem 8. Bram Stoker 9. Transylvania 10. Macbeth

G&M
COACHWORK
DEVON



VEHICLES FOR THE DISABLED

CAR AND LIGHT VAN CONVERSIONS FOR THE FAMILY. WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY PLUS 3-6 SEATS. A SELECTION OF NEW OR GOOD USED VEHICLES BUILT TO SUIT YOUR INDIVIDUAL REQUIREMENTS. FOR ADVICE ON CONVERSIONS, MOTABILITY & VAT EXEMPTION CONTACT: DAVID VOOHT, TEL: 01803 812260

ENABLE VEHICLES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

A NEW VEHICLE EVERY YEAR

FOR JUST **£1000**

Yes! Every year for just £1000
Ring Now! for more details



Users, Parents, Guardians or Carers of Registered

Disabled Wheelchair

Users

ENABLE VEHICLES, CLYDE, HALLIWELL RD,

BOLTON.BL1 3NS Telephone 01204 396481

Win family days out

Don't know what to do with the kids at half term? You could spend a day at one of Britain's top attractions.



A chocoholic's dream day out

Cadbury World in Bourneville near Birmingham is a chocolate lover's dream come true and we've got ten family tickets (two adults and two children) to give away worth £14.50 each.

Stroll through Central American rainforests to see where cocoa was first grown and taste the spicy drink of "chocolatl". Learn how chocolate is made; see, smell and taste it as it is produced and visit the Cadbury Fantasy Factory.

Most of Cadbury World is wheelchair accessible. There are parking spaces for disabled people and adapted toilets.

Just send a postcard with your name and address to: Cadbury Offer, *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. The first ten names pulled out of a hat will win.

Closing date: 14 October, 1996.



Win audio tapes of classic drama

We've got ten copies of the swashbuckling saga *Mutiny on the Bounty* on cassette to give away, worth £8.99 each.

This version, from Mr Punch Productions, was originally broadcast on Radio 4 and stars Oliver Reed and Roger Daltrey.

Mr Punch has just launched five other tapes of classic drama: *The Memoirs of Madame Tussaud* starring Jane Lapotaire, *Scott's Last Journey* with Edward Fox,



Leaves from the Highland Journals of Queen Victoria starring

Virginia McKenna, *First Men in the Moon* and *The Best of Thriller Playhouse* all retailing at £8.99.



To win one of the *Mutiny* tapes, send a postcard with your name and address to: Mutiny Offer, DN, address on page 2. The first ten out of a hat will win. Closing date: 21 October, 1996.

If you are unsuccessful, Mr Punch are offering a 20 per cent discount. Contact them on 0171-924 7767.

Britain's favourite fun park

We've got two family tickets (two adults and two children) to Alton Towers to give away worth £60 each.

Experience thrills and spills on the Nemesis and Energizer rides, go for a whitewater white knuckle ride on the Congo River Rapids (right), or really test your nerves in the Haunted House.

If all this excitement proves too much, relax with a stroll around the park's beautiful gardens.

This Staffordshire fun park has something for everyone and you could enjoy it all for free! Most rides are accessible, there is a guide for disabled visitors with information about each ride and adapted toilets.



Just send your name and address on a postcard to: Alton Towers Offer, DN, address on page 2. The first names pulled out of a hat will win. Closing date: 14 October 1996. Offers not open to DN staff or associates.



A.T.S. TRAVEL

Proudly announce an
ALL NEW WINTER PROGRAMME
for **PORTUGAL**

Escape this coming winter, relaxing in the warmth of the Portuguese sunshine, from as little as £72 plus flights, for seven days, per person. Hotels and self catering packages available, along with self-drive car hire or adapted transfers.



TWO NEW GUIDED TOURS FOR 1997

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Fully guided, includes flights, accommodation, park admissions, etc. 14 days of fun for £999.00pp

HAWAII

The ultimate paradise island for 14 days. Fully guided £1,566.00pp



For further information call

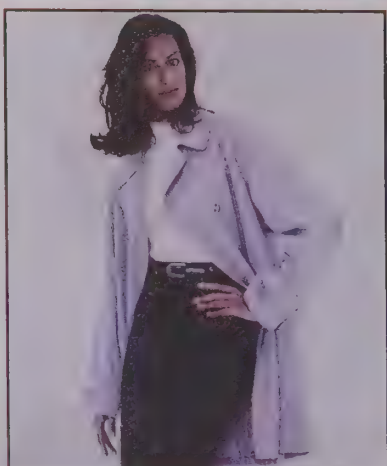
01708 863198

or write to: A.T.S. Travel, A.T.S. House, 1 Tank Hill Road, Purfleet, Essex RM16 1SX

ATS Travel are retail agents for ATOL holders and All our holidays are FULLY BONDED

American Society of Travel Agents

What's in DN next month?



■ **Party conferences** What's on offer from Labour and the Lib Dems.

■ **Fashion at your fingertips** DN's style gurus put together a mail order winter wardrobe.

■ **Security** How safe is your home?

■ **My favourite walk** How to get back to nature.

■ **Naidex** All the news from the UK's top exhibition of disability equipment.

■ **Making the most of your money** Are you paying VAT when you needn't?

Plus all the best news, views, arts, sport, jobs and offers.
On sale 30 October.

Off to meet Mickey

Janet Bonner (*below*) from Tonbridge, Kent, could not believe her luck when she was told she had won a trip to Disneyland, Paris with leading specialist holiday firm ATS Travel.

"I was sent into a complete spin. I'm very excited. It's wonderful," she enthused.

Janet entered the competition,

launched in *DN* in July, after reading about a couple who had won a trip to Majorca through *Disability Now*.

The holiday is the chance to forget everything for a few days. "I usually go on much more serious holidays – I paint and there's always something to do. So the chance to be a great

big kid is a wonderful idea."

Janet beat over 300 other entrants to win the competition. Now she will be able to fulfil a lifelong ambition – to meet Mickey Mouse in the flesh!

Tony Reeve (*right*) from ATS Travel and *DN* editor Mary Wilkinson pick the winner



A Paris prize for Janet Bonner

DN prize is a big comfort

John Hanson from Leicester will be sleeping comfortably thanks to his new Sleepermatic bed.

He won the adjustable bed in a competition run by *Disability Now* in August beating over 270 other entrants. He couldn't believe his luck.

"What a surprise! It's ages since I won anything," he said.

He's now looking forward to testing his latest piece of furniture.

"I can't wait to try it out. It will send my wife crazy," he joked.

The bed has a built-in massage system to help ease away aches and pains and is fully adjustable so you can change the shape to suit you.

"I'm sure it will be a great help," he added.



Bed winner John Hanson looks forward to some sound sleep

Now you can have a Hyundai Accent Coupé 1.3i or 1.3 LSi 5-door on contract hire without an advance payment*.

The stylish coupé offers unrivalled accessibility with its wide front doors and cavernous rear hatch, whilst one of the tightest turning circles in its class makes parking a pleasure.

With 3 years' Hyundai RAC assistance, 3 years'

unlimited mileage warranty and a full 6 years' anti-perforation warranty, overall peace of mind is assured.

For further details of our Motability scheme and full information on the exciting Hyundai range of coupés, hatchbacks, saloons and estates, call free on 0800 981 981.

Motability



Nothing. How's that for starters?



ACCENT. WHEN ALL YOU WANT IS EVERYTHING

Hyundai Car (UK) Ltd., St John's Place, Easton Street, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1NL.
Hyundai Accent Coupé 1.3i at £6,999 plus £423 delivery and number plate charges (total £7,422). *Offer subject to status. Written details on request.

Holidays

SELF-DRIVE ACCESSIBLE MINI-BUSES
Also Personal Transport with Driver for 1-8 people.
ABLE LINE
TEL: 01792 645388
Serving Wales and the West.

MAR Y SOL - TENERIFE
Wheelchair accessible apartments. Heated pool with hoist, restaurant, poolside bar, equipment hire, adapted minibus. Ring 01753 685718 for prices.
ALGARVE - PORTUGAL
Wheelchair friendly luxury villas in Portugal with swimming pools or small friendly hotels with adapted rooms in charming locations.
Sue Abbott, 123 Coppermill Road, Wraybury, Staines, Middx. TW19 5NX. Tel: (01753) 685718.

Blagdon Farm Country Holidays
Devon/Cornwall border
Superb, south-facing, wheelchair accessible luxury bungalows overlooking lake and set within 38 acres of glorious countryside. Many on-site facilities including tea room/shop. Take-away meals and equipment hire available. Tourist Board Highly Commended. For colour brochure please contact:
Pauline and Tony Blight, Blagdon Farm, Ashwater, Beaworthy, Devon EX21 5DF. Phone: 01409 211509. Fax: 01409 211510

GAER COTTAGES

"1993 HOLIDAY CARE AWARD WINNERS"
Quality self-catering cottages for ALL the family with an emphasis on facilities for disabled visitors. 6 of the 9 traditional Welsh stone cottages are single storey, easily accessible from the car park. WTB Top Grading 5 Dragons. Luxurious indoor heated swimming pool with hoist. Games room. Open ALL YEAR. Groups welcome. For colour brochure telephone:

RICHARD & LINDA BURGESS
01570 470275

Llandeilo, West Wales
1994 HOLIDAY CARE WINNER
3 cottages, all wheelchair accessible. Rural location and overlooked by 12th century castle. Ideally situated for exploring South and West Wales. Each cottage sleeps 4, central heating. CTV, games/fitness rooms, laundry, extensive grounds. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (01558) 823059 for brochure.

PENROSE BURDEN NORTH CORNWALL
"1992 Holiday Care Award Winners"
Holiday Cottages designed for wheelchair users and their families. Rural setting with superb views. Dogs welcome. Wood burning stoves and daily meal service.
Please ring or write for colour brochure.
R&N Hall, Penrose Burden, St Breward, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4LZ. Telephone Bodmin (01208) 850277 or 850617.

ASHWELLTHORPE HALL HOTEL
Provides good access, specialist equipment in some rooms. All in a comfortable, friendly country house hotel set in several acres of natural grounds, nine miles from the ancient city of Norwich, offering excellent opportunities for exploring the countryside and coastline of East Anglia. Book now for Autumn and Winter Breaks, Christmas and New Year.
Ring 01508 489324

ORLANDO, FLORIDA
HOUSE WITH A HEART FOR DISABLED TRAVELLERS! SPACIOUS, LUXURY, ADAPTED BUNGALOW SITUATED ON GOLF COURSE. 3 DOUBLE BEDROOMS, 2 BATHROOMS (MANGAR BATHLIFT INSTALLED), CABLE TV, FREE LOCAL TELEPHONE CALLS, FREE COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP. 24 HOUR 'ON CALL' MANAGEMENT COMPANY. 15 mins ORLANDO AIRPORT. 20 mins DISNEY. PARAPLEGIC OWNER.
SUE FISHER, 5 PARK LANE, BROUGHTON PARK, SALFORD M7 4HT TEL/FAX: 0161 792 3029

Britanny Cottage to let. Fully adapted for wheelchair use. Good access to beaches. Sleeps up to 6. Details C. Hodgson. Tel: (01924) 454300.

Scope in Felixstowe
Respite Holidays for the Disabled and Carers.
Spacious caravan 400 yards from Felixstowe sea front and promenade. Can pay monthly. Taking bookings for 1997 now.
Please contact
Miss Mary Richardson
01394 279 173


Globe Farm Holidays
Globe Farm, Charles, Brayford, Nr. Barnstaple, North Devon EX32 7PT
Tel: 01598 710241
Fax: 01598 710813
Email Boddington@easynet.co.uk
Self-catering holiday cottages sleeping 2-6 people.
Fully wheelchair accessible.
Out of season breaks.
Please ring for our brochure.

LAKESIDE COTTAGES
Open all year round
Ambleside - Lake District
Exclusive det bungalow and cottages, 5 min from lake and shops. Convenient to all areas of lakes. Tel: 015394 31733. From £200 per week. Reg. NAS CAT 3.

For sale

The WHEELCHAIR WAREHOUSE

Advice from Professional Disabled People

The largest choice in ranges of Manual Chairs-Scooters-Power Chairs plus many other product lines.

ONE STOP ONLY ALL YEAR ROUND EXHIBITION

Car parking, Showroom, Toilet all accessible.

We are the WHEELCHAIR WAREHOUSE



Regional Office: Unit 3, Minster Court, Courtwick Lane, Littlehampton, W. Sussex BN17 7RN.
Tel: 01903 733528 Fax: 01903 733530
GBL Wheelchair Services Ltd, Units 1-4, Shield Drive, Brentford, Middx TW8 9EX.
Tel: 0181 569 8955 Fax: 0181 560 5380



Powerchairs

Est 1982

MOBILITY CONSULTANTS

New and Nearly New, Electric Wheelchairs, 3 and 4 wheel Scooters, Lift/Rec Chairs, Beds, etc.
All models wanted and for sale.
The right one to suit your needs.



Free advice, delivery, collection, all areas covered. Fully guaranteed.



Ring Free anytime
0500 357 496
or **0121 353 7975**
All major credit cards accepted

HOIST'S

for lifting wheelchairs, scooters and people into cars...

WE HAVE THE ANSWER!

Ring 01629-813493 for brochure or free demo



Are you a Wheelchair User?

Is getting out of your chair into your car becoming more and more difficult, painful or just too much for your driver and carer?

A Chairman Car means no more transferring, no more lifting, just travelling with the family, whenever you choose, in comfort

Ring us FREE on 0800 220878 for your full colour information pack.

GOWRINGS MOBILITY

COTSWOLD COTS

Build cots and Beds For Adults and Children with Special Needs

We Design And Build Any Cot or Bed You Need.

New Products Extra Strong Playpens. Extra Large Stairgates. Fitted Padded Play Areas.
High Quality Fair Prices.
Information Phone 01993 842885

NIAGARA MASSAGE PADS, hand units. Adjustable massage beds, reclining massage chairs, nearly new, half prices, reconditioned, year warranty, guaranteed first class goods. Part exchanges, repairs, COD, Access, Visa accepted. Tel: (01460) 61157.

Why not purchase your books through our Mail Order Service?
For a free book list please contact:
AMEUR INTERNATIONAL
PO Box 116, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 7LB
Tel: 0181 559 0852 Fax: 0181 559 0843

MOTOR CYCLES

SHARE CHAIR® PUTS YOU IN THE SADDLE

As featured in September Disability Now
Wheelchair accessible sidecar fitted to the motorcycle of YOUR choice. Designed for independent use. Grant aid may be available from National Association of Bikers with Disabilities (NABD).

For further information:

WASP ENGINEERING SALISBURY
01722 744343
01495 308023 (evening)

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE REGISTER

ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS LOCATING THE USED VEHICLE YOU NEED OR DISPOSING OF YOUR EXISTING VEHICLE?

Register your requirements or vehicle for sale with the Wheelchair accessible vehicle register and let us match buyer with seller.

For full details of this new service telephone

(01202) 814112

FREE CAR PARK



HOME ASSESSMENTS

NEW SHOWROOM OPEN

43 Alexandra Road
FARNBOROUGH
Hants

Tel: 01252 547939

Scooters: Powerchairs: Lightweight Wheelchairs: Seating Systems: Homecare Products: Rollators: Grab Handles: Bath/Toilet Accessories: Ramps:
A company run by the disabled - for the disabled!

The Lynx Hand Control

The ONLY control that transfers from car to car. Fits in 5 minutes - removal takes seconds.

Your driving freedom will cost less than you think. For more details call: Lynx Hand Control Ltd., on 01695 573816.

HIRE WITH EUROPCAR WITH LYNX HAND CONTROLS

Deadlines for November issue: booking by 11 October, camera ready artwork/copy by 15 October

Recruitment



Haringey Disabilities Consortium

wish to appoint a

CO-ORDINATOR

We are an umbrella organisation uniting and giving a voice to individuals and groups of and for people with disabilities in Haringey.

We are seeking a person to continue to expand our work in improving services within the borough and to develop new initiatives.

The main task of this post is to:

- work with other voluntary bodies;
- liaise with service providers;
- support and motivate a committed staff team.

You will need to have an understanding of disability issues and be committed to promoting the interests of disabled people. You will have experience in managing people and understanding the strategic issues that confront organisations such as ours. You should be able to pursue funding opportunities.

The post is 30 hours per week, salary PO2 £21,405-£23,151 inclusive of London Weighting (pro-rata).

For an application pack please contact:

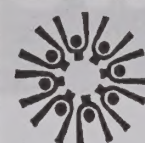
Rena Allicock, HDC, 551b High Road, London N17 6SB
Tel: 0181 801 5757

(Application pack also available on tape).

The closing date for applications is Friday 25th October 1996.

HDC is striving to be an equal opportunities employer and positively encourages applications from disabled people from all sections of the community. Our premises are fully accessible.

Previous applicants need not apply.



SUTTON CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING AND LEARNING

The Sutton Centre for Independent Living and Learning is a new and innovative project run by and for disabled people. Its aim is to promote independence and empowerment by means of a variety of vocational, educational, social and recreational activities.

MANAGER

Salary c £20k

To head and manage services and activities consistent with the philosophy and Constitution of the SCILL Project.

Closing date: Friday 11 October 1996.

Interview date: Wednesday 30 October 1996.

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

Salary c £17k

A new post to design and co-ordinate the monitoring of individual participants' programmes and to deputise in the absence of the Manager.

Closing date: 24 October 1996. Interview date: 7 November 1996.

Please send sae A4 envelope for further details and job application to:

SCVS, Unilink House, 21 Lewis Road, Sutton
Surrey SM1 4BR

SCILL adopts the Social Model of Disability.

CO-ORDINATOR FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING SCHEME

Salary SO2 - £19,356 incl. of London Weighting for 35 hour week SCP 31.

This is a new and exciting project funded by Redbridge Council and R&WFHA and working with a partnership of Redbridge Disability Association, Living Options, Redbridge Council, R&WFHA and Redbridge Independent Living Users' Group.

The post holder will, in consultation with local disabled people, be setting up an Independent Living Scheme and be responsible for promoting it in the voluntary and statutory sectors and to potential users.

To do this you must have personal experience of disability, have a knowledge of current disability legislation, have a commitment to Independent Living as a civil rights issue and be able to motivate and encourage people. You will also have IT skills and be able to work on your own initiative.

Closing date for completed applications is 31st October 1996. We intend to interview soon after that date.

Application forms available from:

Pat Bhabha, Redbridge Disability Association
98-100 Ilford Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 2HD
Telephone 0181 514 2565 (Voice), 0181 514 5686 (Minicom)
This post is only open to disabled people.
We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

For sale

PEOPLE WITH ARTHRITIS - THE SECRET IS REVEALED!

A revolutionary new collagen health drink supplement is now giving people with arthritis extraordinary PAIN RELIEF.

This product is absorbed into the blood stream where research has shown that the collagen fibre seems to replace damaged cartilage in a remarkable way. Kevin Beattie, the ex England footballer, says it is miraculous, "I am now 80% more mobile."

For more details and order forms please ring Independent Consultant Kevin Ward, on Tel/Fax: 01284 703172, or send s.a.e. to Kevin Ward, 11 Tomline Walk, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3JP.

Britain would also welcome more distributors to spread the great news. It is a worthwhile, low capital business opportunity working from home.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

Motor insurance

The "Access" Policy

A unique contract specially designed for owners of vehicles converted to carry wheelchair passengers.
Substantial premium savings – up to 30% possible.

For a quote please contact
CHARD INSURANCE SERVICES (REGISTERED BROKERS), 15 HOLYROOD STREET, CHARD TA20 2AH. 01460 61373/62148

Services offered

Disabled Accountant works from home and prepares accounts for self-employed people and small businesses for taxation purposes. Can obtain tax rebates if applicable. Fees reasonable. Consultations are free.
Tel: 01279 415 664

Networks

The Register of Independent Researchers

is a central database of UK based freelance social researchers. The Register provides access to networking, training and employment opportunities.

If you are an independent social researcher and would like to know more, contact:

Lesley Saunders, RIR, PO Box 226
Esher, Surrey KT10 0ZB
Tel/Fax: 01372 462853

Personal



Dating Agency for people with disabilities and caring, understanding able-bodied persons.

Ring now on 01473 226950

Lonely, bored and fed up?
Why not give Handicate a try?
Handicate, The Wellington Centre
52 Chevellier Street, Ipswich
Suffolk IP1 2PB
Member of ABIA



Find-A-Friend

Anybody – Any Age – Anywhere Able-Bodied or Disabled
Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship

MUTUAL ESSENTIAL LINKS

1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL
Tel/Fax (24hr) UK 01606 49093, Overseas Int +44 +1606 49093

Property for sale

GROUND FLOOR FLAT. Two bedrooms. Muswell Hill, London. Wooden floors. Easy parking. Wheelchair accessible. Only £55,000. Tel (evening): 0181-442 1804, (day): 0181-752 5378.

WEST YORKSHIRE BUNGALOW. Three bedrooms (largest 18ftx12ft) Wheelchair accessible. Converted kitchen and bathroom. Heated swimming pool. Double glazing and gas central heating. For further details, contact: Dave or Alice on tel: (01924) 374911.

FIVE BEDROOM HOUSE. South East London. Ideal for disabled people. £20,000 disability facilities installed or small nursing home. £145,000. Tel: 0181-659 4225.

Wanted

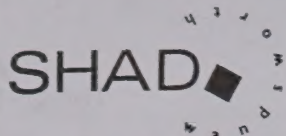
TYPEWRITER/WORD PROCESSOR with visual display for use by Tetra. Tel: (01457) 868731.

POWER ASSISTED WHEELCHAIR or scooter. Modern type. To be able to fit in estate. Cheap as possible or would like to swap new Canon camcorder for it. Cost £750. All accessories with it. Tel: (01298) 25294 (Buxtom).

CARAVELLE OR SIMILAR needed. Adapted with side lift for wheelchair access. Cash waiting for late register. Vehicle in good condition. Tel: (01222) 482825.

FORD ESCORT CHAIRMAN. Low mileage. Good condition. Reasonable price paid. Tel: (0410) 552646.

Recruitment



Manager

Salary £21,432 inc
London weighting
35 hours per week

SHAD Wandsworth, an organisation that provides independent living for people with severe physical disabilities, has a vacancy for a Manager who has the knowledge and experience with which to help the organisation move forward.

The SHAD Manager will have a good working knowledge of the voluntary sector, an understanding of disability issues and the ethos of independent living.

The successful candidate will have exceptional management skills in personnel and financial administration, using computerised accounting packages.

For further details and an application form please contact:

SHAD Wandsworth, c/o the Nightingale Centre
8 Balham Hill, London SW12 9EA

Tel: 0181 675 6095. Fax: 0181 675 3542

Closing date for completed application forms is Thursday 24th October, and interviews will be held on Monday 11th November.

Hammersmith and Fulham Action for Disability

Director

(£24,187-£26,123 pa including London Weighting)

HAFAD works towards the empowerment of disabled people in the borough. We are looking for a disabled person to manage the organisation and strategically develop the range of services we provide.

The successful candidate will have a commitment to civil rights for disabled people and a thorough understanding of equal opportunities issues. S/he will be an accomplished manager and have experience of financial planning and fund raising skills.

Application packs are available from

Rosario Torres, HAFAD, Beaufort House
49 Lillie Road, London SW6 1UD

Telephone 0171 385 2156 (Voice and Minicom)

Closing date for receipt of applications is 25th October 1996.

HAFAD is working towards becoming an equal opportunities employer.

Charities Act 1960 No. 28934

TWO ROUTES TO SUCCESS

From solicitors to caretakers, social workers to administrators, cashiers to personnel officers, teachers to architects, library workers to play workers, there's a wealth of opportunity in Camden. If you can offer a wealth of talent, here's two ways to use it:

You can find out about current and future vacancies in Camden by:

- Calling Emma Jones on 0171 413 6113, she'll tell you what's on offer and send you all the details you need
- Calling our minicom on 0171 860 5859, if you leave your name and address, we'll send you a weekly bulletin of jobs for the next three months
- Completing the slip below and sending it to us at Camden Advertising, Room 305, Town Hall, Judd St, London WC1H 9JE. Again, you can look forward to receiving our bulletin for the next three months.

Come to the Jobs Fair on 23rd October at the Camden Centre, WC1 from 10.30am to 3.30pm. It's jointly sponsored by Camden and the Employment Service.

You'll be able to:

- Meet representatives from all Council Departments and the Employment Service
- Find out about all current vacancies on offer in Camden and other organisations
- Register to receive the Jobs Bulletin and other future vacancy information
- Find out about training and development

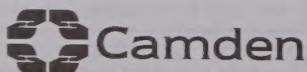
Yes, I'd like to receive the Bulletin containing opportunities in Camden for the next 3 months:

Name: _____

Address: _____

I require:

Text ☐ Braille ☐ Large Print ☐

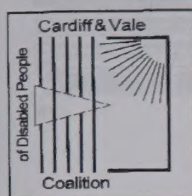


Dn10/96



The Camden Centre is fully accessible

Recruitment



CARDIFF AND VALE COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE INDEPENDENT LIVING SCHEME

The Coalition has Service Level Agreements with both Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Social Services Departments to run an Independent Living Scheme. It will provide information, training and support to disabled people eligible for Direct Payments who wish to employ their own personal assistants. It will be the first scheme of its kind in Wales. We wish to recruit disabled people who are committed to disability equality principles and have relevant experience, to the following posts:

INDEPENDENT LIVING

COORDINATOR (£17,055-£18,180)

responsible for managing and co-ordinating the Scheme and devising strategies for its future development.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT EMPLOYMENT

ADVISOR (£14,436-£16,404)

responsible for empowering disabled people referred to the Scheme by providing appropriate advice, information, and support.

For an application form and further information please contact:

Yvonne Farmer at 30 Burlington Street, Barry CF63 3NW

Telephone 01446 743384

Closing date: 28 October 1996.

Interviews: Co-ordinator - 14 November; Advisor - 21 November.

Race Equality Unit Research Assistant

Starting salary £16,453 inc London Weighting

The Race Equality Unit is a national agency promoting better social care for Britain's black communities.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has awarded us a grant to carry out a research and development project on the experience of independent living of young black disabled people. We are looking for a Research Assistant to work with the Researcher on this project. The appointment will be for three days a week for 18 months.

The Research Assistant will carry out or support various tasks including: interviews with young black disabled people; preparing transcriptions; and analysing interviews.

We are looking for someone who is a graduate with experience of conducting research, in particular qualitative research and using computers in research. They should also have direct experience of disability and issues affecting Britain's black communities and ideally an understanding of the social care issues they face.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

For an application pack please send a large SAE with a 30p stamp to Janette Bryan, REU, 5 Tavistock Place, London WC1N 9SN. Closing date is 25.10.96. Please indicate if you require it in large print or on tape.

Directions Plus Information Officer



Local Government Scale 5, salary £13,581, full-time for 20 months (with the possibility of an extension).

Directions Plus is the Cambridge and Ely area's information and advice service for disabled people and carers. We are seeking a disabled person to fill this post.

The post-holder will manage paper and computerised information resources to support paid and volunteer colleagues in their work. He/she will take the lead in ensuring that enquirers receive high-quality information and advice, by supporting volunteers and by handling more complex enquiries.

We need someone with a strong background in managing and providing information, preferably for members of the public, with a relevant qualification or with substantial experience. The post would suit someone with an interest in community information and advice, and a knowledge of the issues of rights, services and benefits that face disabled people. Database experience essential.

Closing date, Friday October 18th. Interview date Thursday October 31st.

Contact **Directions Plus, 72/74 Newmarket Road, Cambridge CB5 8DZ. Tel 01223 360808** for an application pack.

(Registered Charity No. 1054543)

TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES

Please contact the Advertisement Director,

Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices,

Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU.

Tel: 0171-252 1362. Fax: 0171-237 8019.

equality

It's the quality of your skills and experience that will help get you a job with Croydon Council. We don't care about your sex, colour, sexual orientation, disability or age - we care what you can do for Croydon.

For more information on current vacancies watch the local and national press for our advertisements or visit our One Stop Service on the ground floor of Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon.

London Borough of Croydon



Charity No 1046394 Choices & Rights Disability Coalition

DEVELOPMENT WORKER

wanted for Choices and Rights Disability Coalition, based in Kingston upon Hull. The worker will be required to develop and expand the Coalition and to set up and run a disability information system.

The post is funded by the National Lottery for a period of three years (subject to objectives being obtained) and is for 26 hours p/w, salary scale £15,375 pro rata (Scale 6).

The successful applicant will have:

Experience of development and management work.

Personal experience of disability.

A high level of self motivation.

For a job description, application form and further details, please write or telephone to:

Choices and Rights Disability Coalition

c/o Centre 88, Saner Street

Anlaby Road, Kingston upon

Hull HU3 2TR

Tel: 01482 223635

Closing date for applications: 25.10.96

We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

Scope (formerly The Spastics Society) is the UK's largest charity working with disabled people. For over 40 years we have been providing help, advice and practical resources to people with cerebral palsy, their parents and carers. Scope offers the support people need to take control of their lives.

Two full-time research posts for 7 months

Salary up to £18,000 pa pro rata

Scope, working in partnership with the Housing Corporation and Tai Cymru, is undertaking research into best practice models of accessible housing with support for disabled people.

Applications are invited from qualified and experienced researchers who will be able to demonstrate considerable knowledge of this area and of working with disabled people. The intention is to actively engage disabled people in the research, both individually and in groups, and applications from disabled researchers are therefore particularly welcomed.

The researchers need not be based in London but must be able to travel throughout England and Wales.

Further details and application forms can be obtained from: The Campaigns Department, Scope, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Tel: 0171-636 5020. Fax: 0171-436 2601.

Closing date for applications: 18th October 1996.

Interview dates: 6th and 7th November 1996.

Start date: January 1997.



Working Towards Equality

UNIVERSAL MOBILITY LTD

SUPERIOR VEHICLE CONVERSIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WISHING TO TRAVEL IN THEIR OWN WHEELCHAIRS. MOST AVAILABLE ON MOTABILITY

CALL OUR SALES HOTLINE NOW ON (Charged at local rate)
0345 413348

For Free Information Pack and Details of this months Special Offers

INTRODUCING FIVE OF OUR TOP SELLING VEHICLES

DAIHATSU HIJET - FREEDOM

Extremely popular small M.P.V. cost effective, but can still carry one wheelchair passenger and four able-bodied passengers.



FIAT FIORINO

The cornerstone of the Universal stable built to our industries leading specification, this vehicle is price sensitive and our best seller year on year.



VAUXHALL COMBO

Offers increased choice for our customer. Super all round vision for the wheelchair passenger. Available in a number of base vehicle options.



FORD COURIER

Superb looking vehicle, well received by our customers carries one wheelchair passenger and four able-bodied passengers. Available with automatic gearbox.



FULL RANGE OF DRIVING ADAPTATIONS FOR ALL OUR VEHICLES SUPPLIED AND FITTED. SWIVEL SEATS ALSO AVAILABLE.

Head Office: Jordans, Partridge Lane, Ruspur, Sussex. RH12 4RW Tel: 01293 871019
Works & Northern Office: Unit 2, Royd Mill, Dyehouse Lane, Brighouse. HD6 1LL Tel: 01484 400795



NO NONSENSE VEHICLE CONVERSIONS

DisabilityNow

£1.40 October 1996

The award winning newspaper for everyone with an interest in disability

Rights call to MPs

“Disabled people have a clear demand for the next government – equality”, say 16 disability groups.

Making a splash: Amputees Steve Butterworth and Angie Payne with Steve Armstrong, who is blind, at the European Disabled Waterski Championships at Whitworth in Lancashire.



NEWS TEAM

Win family days out at Alton Towers and Cadbury World

PARALYMPICS

Putting the Great back into Britain



SAFETY

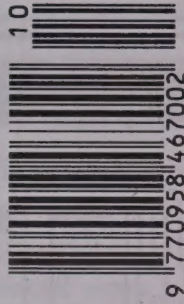
Violence on the streets – what you can do



Jobs pages 33-35

Regulars

News Focus	Mencap's half century	11
Parent's Voice	Hope with Feuerstein	12
Motoring	Centenary Motor Show	13
City Focus	Birmingham takes action	22
Microtech	Ways to communicate	24



9 770958 467002